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Arafat asks US to intervene on settlement expansion

CAIRO — PLO leader Yasser Arafat has asked the United States to intervene quickly to stop Israel from expanding and funding settlements, a PLO official said yesterday.

"We met the US [consul] in Jerusalem and we asked his country to intervene immediately to stop the settlements in all forms and their funding, out of concern for the peace process," chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath told Reuters.

"[Yasser] Arafat has also directly contacted the US administration on the issue of settlements," added Shaath, who is in charge of planning in the Palestinian Authority.

The State Department would not confirm that the Palestinians had appealed to the US to curb expansion of Israeli settlements.

But spokeswoman Christine Shelly said "we admit that they're [the settlements] a problem" and called on the parties to "deal with these issues" together as stated in the Declaration of Principles.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, speaking after a meeting between Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday, said Israel had brought relations with the Palestinians to crisis point by illegally expanding settlements.

Moussa said expanding settlements was a serious violation of international law and the terms of the Madrid peace conference.

Egypt might also ask the United States whether the expansion violated the terms of an agreement under which Washington guaranteed loans to Israel worth \$10 billion, he added.

"It should be raised with them [the Americans]," he said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters in Paris yesterday that there is no crisis in the negotiations with the Palestinians, and he believes an agreement on the second stage of the autonomy accord will be reached in two or three months.

Peres met yesterday with French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Moussa said he hoped an expected summit between Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin — planned this week but apparently delayed — could solve problems over withdrawing IDF troops from West Bank towns and the settlement issue. He did not say when the meeting was expected.

Moussa said Israel's pledge not to build new settlements was a positive step for peace, but he added the same policy should apply to enlarging existing settlements.

Asked if the dispute had brought Israeli-Palestinian talks to "ultimate crisis," Moussa said: "No, we have not reached that level yet but it is a crisis situation."

Shaath, in Cairo with Arafat, said the Palestinian Authority had won Egypt's full backing on the issue of settlements.

The PLO and Israel ended a round of talks on Palestinian elections in Cairo yesterday with the PLO suggesting that an international committee of judges supervise any agreement reached on the long-delayed vote.

Saeed Erekat, head of the Palestinian election committee, said he urged the Israelis to be ready by the next round of talks to draft the agreement on elections, which should have taken place by last July.

The Israeli delegation, led by Brig.-Gen. Gadi Zohar, head of the civilian administration, did not speak to reporters after the end of talks.

Hillel Kuttler and Eldad Beck contributed to this report.

IDF orders settlers off land near Elkana

HERB KEINON and JON IMMANUEL

SETTLERS took the initiative in the intensifying struggle over land in Judea and Samaria yesterday, fencing off an area of state land near the settlement of Elkana that they claim was being illegally worked by Palestinians.

About an hour after the work was finished on the hill, the civil administration issued an order to stop the work.

"They are working on land not allocated to the settlement," said Maj. Elise Shazar, a spokeswoman for the civil administration. "We are enforcing the law. We told them they are not allowed to work there."

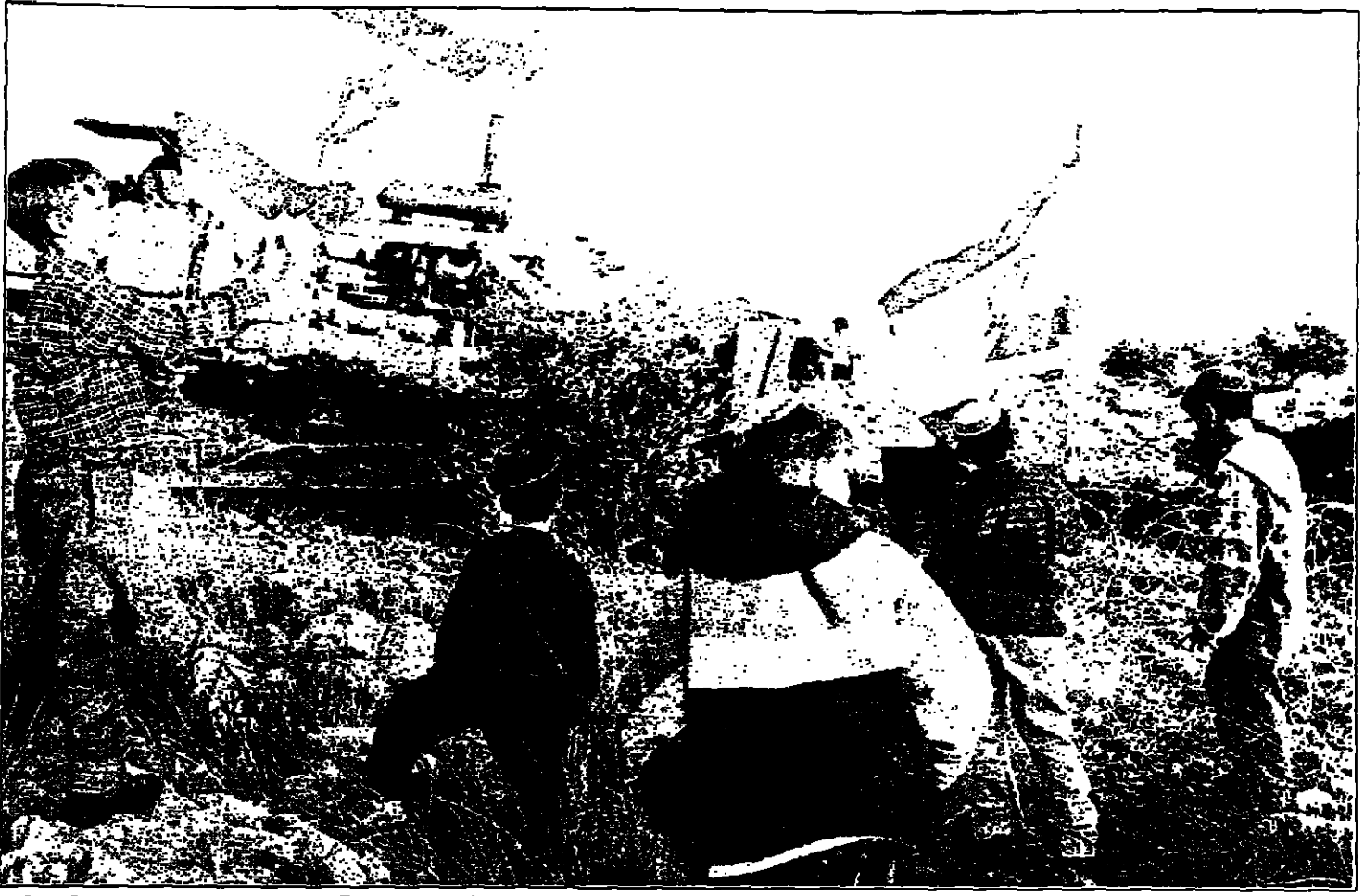
"It's like erogim after Succot," said Aharon Domb, spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, regarding the order.

He said the order would have no impact on the council's intentions to carry out similar operations elsewhere.

About 100 residents of the town in Samaria stood watch as bulldozers cleared land and workers erected a barbed wire fence around 90 dunams on a hill some 400 meters from the settlement. Community leaders insist the hill falls within the settlement's boundaries.

Dozens of Palestinians from the neighboring village of Zawiya looked on, and a few tried to make it to the hill, called Givat Hatzofeh, but they were stopped by Border Police on the scene. Three Palestinians were arrested.

Nissan Smolianski, the head of the Elkana Local Council and "operations officer" for the



A bulldozer levels ground near Elkana which settlers claim was being illegally worked by Palestinians. (Reuters)

Council of Jewish Communities, said that the work was an attempt to demonstrate ownership over the land.

He said there are no immediate plans to build housing on the site. Elkana, in western Samaria, has a population of 3,500.

"We are doing what the government should be doing, pre-

serving the land so they [the Palestinians] don't steal it," Smolianski said. "I can't imagine that here, five kilometers from Rosh Ha'ayin, 20 km. from the sea, the government will knuckle under and stop the work."

Smolianski said that yesterday's operation was "an indication that we are taking the initia-

tive. We are not just going to sit back and wait for the next spot Ahmed Tibi and the Left wants to make an issue."

Smolianski was referring to a string of Palestinian protests over alleged land confiscation that have taken place in the week since the Efrat compromise. Protests over land expropriation

have taken place near Ariel, Talmon, Psagot, Morag, and Kiryat Sefer.

"We understood after Efrat and Morag that after the Arabs scream, the government knuckles under and gives in," Smolianski said. "We will not give in."

Smolianski said that similar operations designed to physically

stake claims to state land within the borders of various settlements will take place over the next few weeks. He would not say where or when these operations will occur.

Smolianski said that the Jews who went to the hill would have "responded" if the Palestinians would have tried to stop the work there.

Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo said yesterday settlements have to stop "but [today] we see the bulldozers are still working," he said, referring to Elkana.

Abed-Rabbo was speaking at a meeting of MKs and Palestinian officials at Jerusalem's Notre Dame Hotel called to protest continued construction in the settlements.

Other participants included Ziyad Abu Zayad, Hanan Ashrawi, Ghassan Khatib, and several Labor and Meretz MKs. MK Hagai Merom (Labor) said he was not opposed to enlarging homes inside settlements but opposed "expansion of settlements themselves, as has been attempted in Efrat, even on Givat Hazayit," where the government has approved building.

The PA Information Ministry launched a public relations campaign against settlements at a Jericho conference Monday. A PA information booklet says Israel expropriated 70,000 dunams between September 1993, when the Oslo agreement was signed, and October 1994, and utilized 10,000 dunams of it for settlements.

The campaign is designed to pressure the government to stop any expansion of the settlements and to restore waning public confidence in the peace process.

Settlers arrested near Beit El, Page 2

Palestinian policemen block and harass settler's school bus in Gush Katif

SIX gun-wielding Palestinian undercover policemen forced a bus full of schoolchildren from the Gaza settlement of Netzarim to stop yesterday afternoon at the Netzarim Junction, and then spat at the bus and cursed the driver.

Miri Harari, the spokeswoman for Netzarim, said that at about 4:30 p.m. the bus, accompanied by an IDF escort jeep, was carrying some 50 children aged 10 to 13 to Netzarim from their school in

Gush Katif.

She said a car tried repeatedly to pass the bus, but the IDF escort would not allow it to do so.

At some point, however, the car succeeded in passing both the bus and the jeep. It then blocked the road near the Netzarim Junction so the bus could not get by.

"Six men in civilian clothes, but carrying guns, jumped out, and started curs-

ing and spitting at the bus," Harari said. Yehuda Elbaz, the bus driver, told itim, "The children in the bus started to panic and scream, and I blasted on the horn. I didn't know how or from which direction they [the Palestinians] came. It was a surprise and I was very frightened. I was just happy to see the soldiers at the junction."

The IDF lodged a complaint about the incident with the joint Palestinian-Israeli liaison committee.

Palestinian sources told itim that the men involved were Fatah Hawks in an undercover Palestinian police unit, apparently involved in arresting collaborators.

However Israel Radio reported that one of the men was Mohammed Dahlan, chief of the PA's Preventive Security

force.

"This incident is extremely frightening," Harari said. "But considering the number of incidents lately in Gush Katif, we are not surprised."

"We feel the Palestinians have a free hand to do what they wish, and that the IDF cannot, or is not allowed to, respond. We hope that the government wakes up, because this situation is intolerable."

Yad Vashem, Golan visits now optional for FM guests

THE Foreign Ministry will no longer require its guests to visit Yad Vashem, and visitors wishing to tour the Golan Heights must now especially request a visit since it will no longer be recommended.

The ministry will now only recommend that first-time visitors visit the Holocaust memorial.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said these new guidelines were issued by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin two weeks ago, after convening ministry officials to discuss Israel's standard itinerary for guests.

The era of Bolshevism when Israel dictated what its guests would see is over, Beilin said during the meeting.

Efraim Zuroff, Israel director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center,

DAVID MAKOVSKY

attacked the new Yad Vashem policy. "It is patently absurd that the Foreign Ministry is only recommending that first-time visitors go to Yad Vashem. Any person who wants to understand why the existence of the Jewish state is so important has to understand the Holocaust and its implications."

"Beilin has a notion of the Jewish people as a normal people masquerading as perennial victims," Zuroff said. "This is a government that has an ambivalent attitude toward the Jewish past and considers itself less obligated by the Jewish past."

A few months ago, the issue of Yad Vashem being a mandatory stop caused a diplomatic crisis,

when visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa did not want to visit the site and did so only under Israeli pressure.

According to Gabby Levy, head of the Foreign Ministry's Official Guests Department, the ministry hosts several hundred guests a year, including heads of state, cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, academics, cultural figures, and businessmen.

Foreign Ministry sources admit the new policy on the Golan is tied to Israel's willingness to significantly withdraw from the Golan.

While there seems to be agreement that visitors usually return from the Golan very impressed about the security value of the area, some sources say a few of

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Rabin: Jerusalem to stay united

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin reiterated the government's commitment to "a united Jerusalem that is the eternal capital of the State of Israel" during a much awaited tour of Jerusalem yesterday.

"The top priority for all of us is a united Jerusalem, under Israel's authority," the prime minister said. Later he said the commitment to Jerusalem he talked about was to Jerusalem within its present borders, and not necessarily to "greater Jerusalem," which includes nearby settlements.

"I have always opposed, and continue to oppose, a return to the '67 borders," Rabin said. At the same time, he said he was against annexing areas that would endanger the state's Jewish majority.

Rabin stopped short of approving increased funding for the city that Mayor Ehud Olmert says is needed to give the government's commitment real

BILL HUTMAN

meaning.

Olmert asked Rabin to give Jerusalem the tax breaks and additional state funding given "front line communities." The mayor also asked for millions of shekels in funding for new infrastructure, roads, housing, and education in Jerusalem. The additional development is needed to "ensure that Jerusalem remains unified," Olmert said, at a press conference at the close of Rabin's six-hour visit.

The mayor called for the construction of "tens of thousands of new homes for the (Jewish) population, while also dealing with the housing needs of Arab residents."

Olmert spent much of the visit pushing for increased funding for Arab neighborhoods, on grounds that continuing to ignore the needs of the

Organization tax for public sector okayed

THE Histadrut and the Treasury are due to sign an agreement on levying an organization tax on the civil service and public sector at the Finance Ministry this afternoon.

Histadrut Trade Union Chairman Amir Peretz and Treasury wage director Yossi Kochik

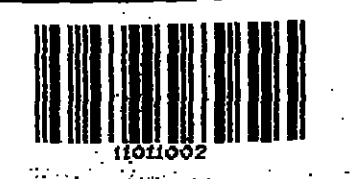
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

agreed yesterday that all workers in the public sector who are Histadrut members will pay an organization tax on 0.9% of their monthly wages, while non-Histadrut members will pay 0.7%.

Yesterday, Peretz and Kochik

initiated the accord, which is identical to the one reached with the private employers on Sunday.

Directors-general and their deputies will be exempt from the organization tax, which is intended to finance the Histadrut's activities.



Perry: Greater dialogue needed on Iranian threat

THE US should intensify its dialogue with Israel regarding the Iranian military and terror threat, US Defense Secretary William Perry told Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Jerusalem earlier this week, Israeli sources said.

Israel apparently also wants to get countries other than the US involved in the issue.

Sources said that at a Foreign Ministry staff meeting Monday, deputy director-general Eitan Bentsur said: "Israel will also aim to begin a diplomatic dialogue in earnest in key world capitals regarding Iran's intentions and capabilities and efforts to obtain a nuclear arsenal, in order to en-

DAVID MAKOVSKY

hance awareness."

Israel already has intelligence consultations with the US and other countries on the Iranian issue, but it has been receiving mixed signals about Iran's capabilities.

For example, in November, Israel was informed by the US that the Iranian-North Korean cooperation on surface-to-surface missiles had ceased, only to be informed a couple of weeks later by a senior US security official that the cooperation had resumed.

The new diplomatic focus is aimed at creating awareness

among more government officials, and not launching a worldwide information campaign that Tehran could misconstrue.

"We are not talking about creating a public awareness campaign, because we do not want to whip up Iranian antagonism. They could see this as creating a sense that we are threatening them," sources quoted Bentsur as saying.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Hashemi reportedly said yesterday that US concern about Iran's atomic potential is evidence of a pro-Israel bias.

Knesset panel investigates claims of police brutality against Hebron Jews

THE Knesset Control Committee visited Hebron yesterday to investigate allegations of police brutality during the past year against Jewish residents there, including children as young as six years old.

The plaintiffs were Jewish residents of Hebron and Kiryat Arba, who alleged that on several occasions police "hit, slapped, punched, choked and knocked heads against walls."

On one occasion, children between the ages of 6 and 13 were attacked by policemen when they were waiting for a bus to school, the settlers said. On another occasion policemen charged a 15-year-old with attacking five policemen and jailed him for three days, they said.

Last July 12, police reversed a van into nine-months pregnant Anat Cohen near the Cave of the Machpela and caused her to give

JON IMMANUEL

birth prematurely. Three months later, Cohen was questioned and not allowed contact with her breastfeeding infant for several hours, said Hebron activist Orit Struk.

Policemen were not wearing ID tags and "threatened to harm her and other Jews in Hebron," an information sheet said.

MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledei) attacked Varda Shahar, a state prosecutor, whom he said had described the July incident as "a traffic violation." Yoram Lass (Labor) shouted at Ze'evi for "attacking a state employee doing her job."

"You think your job is to defend the coalition, but we are here to deal with the problems of Jewish citizens," Ze'evi retorted. Shahar said she had reopened the file on Cohen after receiving

new evidence, but Cohen and her children who witnessed the incident failed to come to make a statement and the file was closed.

Struk said Cohen could not leave her children to come to the investigator's office and had asked him to come to Hebron. But the investigator would not come to Hebron without an assured escort, which her office could not provide, Shahar said.

"When I see what can happen to Jews, I certainly understand Arab claims. I receive B'tselem reports and always read them carefully," said National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat.

Struk said a meeting with the head of the Judea and Samaria police district, Cmdr. Alec Ron, had helped clear the air, but Ron denied he had accepted the settlers' version of events. He confirmed only that the accusations merited an internal investigation.



Yehuda Etzion surveys damage done to a caravan by the army yesterday, after settlers tried to set up an outpost near the spot where Eilon Moreh resident Ofra Felix was murdered on Friday. (Brian Hender)

13 arrested setting up mobile home where Ofra Felix was murdered

HERB KEINON

THIRTEEN of the 14 people arrested early yesterday morning while trying to set up a mobile home at the site of Friday's murder of Ofra Felix near Beit El were released later in the day.

The arrested men were removed from the mobile home they were able to temporarily set up at the site. According to Beit El resident Shlomo Dukan, the IDF then destroyed the trailer and pushed it into a nearby wadi.

Some 300 people from settlements near the Halamish Junction where Felix was killed began gathering late Monday night at the site to try and set up a permanent presence. Shilo activist Yisrael Meidani said that Jews in the region began receiving phone calls early in the evening to go to

the site and take part in some kind of "operation."

"The mobile home was brought by a truck through Arab villages to the site," Dukan said. "We set it up and about 100 people went inside. At about daybreak, a large number of soldiers arrived, about one soldier for each of us. They picked up people in the caravan and took them out through the windows."

A handful of people have maintained a vigil at the site since Felix's funeral on Sunday. "Wherever Jewish blood is spilled we want to set up a settlement," Dukan said. He would not reveal future plans to set up a settlement at the site.

Currently three tents are set up

on the side of the road, where a handful of people keep an around-the-clock vigil. Dukan said this vigil is coordinated with the IDF.

Rabbi Ya'acov Libi from Shilo said he hopes this site becomes a symbol of Jewish determination to settle Judea and Samaria. Libi said the operation was organized at the grass-roots level, and not by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. It is the result, Libi said, of hundreds of Jews coming to the realization that "enough is enough. That they want to express that the Land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel."

In the past three years there have been a number of attempts

to set up settlements at the site of terror attacks. In the summer of 1993, Gush Etzion residents tried for weeks — but ultimately failed — to establish a settlement at the site where Mordechai Lipkin was killed.

In 1991, a number of women set up a presence at the spot where Rachel Druck and Yitzhak Rofeh were killed near the Tapuch Junction. The then Likud government decided that 10 to 15 settlers could maintain a memorial vigil there, but the mobile homes they set up there were taken away. Today there are five structures at the site where five people live, and an IDF post nearby. The site is often used for Shabbat seminars and is called Rehaim.

Hamas considers forming party for polls

HAMAS is considering forming a political party to run in the Palestinian elections, according to Marwan Barghout, Fatah general secretary in the territories.

Hamas has denied these plans, but Barghout hinted that an understanding on this matter was reached between Hamas and Fatah in Gaza after the mosque shooting in November, when 14 people were killed.

Barghout also believes that the rejectionist PLO groups, the PFLP and DFLP, will agree to

LAMIA LAHOUD

participate in the elections.

However, PFLP spokesman Riad Malki, a Ramallah resident, insists that his faction still opposes the elections for the autonomous council, and is demanding elections for the Palestinian National Council first. Malki said the PFLP regards the PNC as the Palestinian parliament, which represents Palestinians all over the world. Once the newly elected PNC has met and discussed

the autonomy agreement, the rejectionist PLO groups may participate in general elections, he said.

Mohammad Jaddallah, a DFLP spokesman, also insists on first holding elections for the PNC. He admitted that the rejectionist PLO groups fear the PNC, which also represents the rejectionist PLO groups, will lose its role and importance once the autonomous council has been elected.

Palestinian negotiators have told their Israeli counterparts that a large autonomous council of about 100 members could abolish the articles of the PLO charter calling for the destruction of Israel, without convening the PNC.

Yasser Arafat needs a two-thirds majority to change or abolish the PLO charter, and that may be difficult to obtain in the PNC.

Bakshi-Doron: Jews may not sell land to 'aliens'

CHIEF Sephardi Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron said yesterday that he accepted the halachic ruling of Safed's chief rabbi, who forbade Jews to sell land or apartments to Arabs.

"It is a great mitzva to settle in the Land of Israel and buy its plots and property," Bakshi-Doron said yesterday in an interview with Army Radio. "It is forbidden to sell Jewish-owned land to aliens."

Some 100 rabbis signed the halachic ruling of Safed Chief Rabbi Shmuel Eliahu.

The Arab MKs censured the ruling, and no major rabbi has yet condemned it.

However, Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau said yesterday that city and neighborhood rabbis should consult with the Chief Rabbinate Council before publishing halachic rulings like this or any other rulings.

Lau said the issue of selling or renting real estate to non-Jews in Israel had never been discussed in any formal rabbinical forum. However he said the democratic right of freedom of expression entitled any rabbi to make rulings based on halachic sources. (Ilim)

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. R/A. Falcon will speak on the 1947 UN Partition Vote and R/P. Roded will speak on the peace process and new possibilities for travel.



Prime Minister Rabin visits the Western Wall yesterday. (Harari)

RABIN

(Continued from Page 1) Arab population hurts Israel's claims to the city.

Rabin made no promises, but city officials said they were optimistic he understood the city's needs and would soon approve additional funding for Jerusalem's development.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, on the tour at Rabin's request, also made no firm commitments. He only spoke generally about long-range plans to build "more than 30,000 units over the next five or six years" in Jerusalem.

Olmert had pushed for some time for Rabin to make an official visit to Jerusalem as a guest of the municipality, hoping this would help push the government to translate its commitment to Jerusalem to financing for specific projects.

On several occasions during the visit, Rabin reiterated that the government would never give in to Palestinian demands for the establishment of their capital in eastern Jerusalem.

"There is no need for me to expand on the issue of the connection of the Jewish people to Jerusalem," Rabin told pupils at an East Talpote high school.

Answering a pupil's question about the government's stand on

the city, Rabin noted that the Palestinian demands for eastern Jerusalem were nothing new.

"I remember well that even Sadat, when he addressed the Knesset, called for a Palestinian state to be established, with Jerusalem as its capital," Rabin said.

While remaining firm on retaining control of Jerusalem, Israel must also be sensitive to the need to grant religious freedom to Moslems and Christians in the city, Rabin said.

Rabin, Olmert, and Ben-Eliezer, began the tour on Mount Scopus, drove through Arab neighborhoods to see poor conditions there first-hand before arriving at the new Ophel Road tourist project, and then the Western Wall.

The three leaders, under heavy police protection, also walked through the Old City market, speaking with Arab shopkeepers, Christian clergymen, and even tourists.

"You are a good man, you are a man of peace," an elderly Arab shopkeeper shouted, as the large entourage made its way through the narrow alleyways.

At the Western Wall, however, several religious youths shouted "Traitor, traitor" at Rabin, before being pushed out of sight by police.

VISITS

(Continued from Page 1) those visitors may lobby against Israeli government compromises. Other Foreign Ministry sources say they are not aware of any guests doing so.

The Golan Residents Committee expressed shock yesterday over Beilin's new orders. The committee said that despite Beilin's move it would find ways to bring all guests to the Golan Heights for a visit.

"Beilin knows that the facts on the Golan are stronger than the

government's policy. Anyone who has visited the Golan or looked out from it cannot be mistaken that the Golan looks like a wall protecting Israel's north. Beilin's attempt to avoid facts is doomed to failure," said committee spokesman Uri Heiner.

A multi-national presence on the Golan Heights must include American troops, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last night. Rabin added that there had been American troops in the Sinai for 16 years, so why couldn't there be the same on the Golan?

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driving instructors killed in road accident

Two driving instructors on their way to reserve duty were killed yesterday and a third man suffered light to moderate injuries in an accident near Beit Horon on the Jerusalem-Ben-Shimon highway.

Yigal Rehovi, 44, of Givat Ze'ev, and Nissan Zurbachi, 41, of Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood, were traveling together at 6:30 a.m. when their car swerved to the left and hit a commercial vehicle. The two were close friends and had opened a driving school in Ramot two years ago. The driver of the commercial vehicle was taken to a Jerusalem hospital.

In another accident, one man was killed and two injured, seriously, in a collision on the Reut-Maccabim highway. (Ilim)

GSS has questioned 26,000 in past 7 years

From the publication of the Landau Commission Report on General Security Service investigations in 1987, until the end of 1994, the GSS interrogated 26,000 people, MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) revealed yesterday.

Cohen, a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said on the *Five After the News* program on Israel Radio that the fact that so many interrogations have taken place and so few GSS officers have been tried for abuse is a credit to the security service.

He added, however, that the GSS bill currently being debated should be passed. "In a properly-run country, it is imperative that the work of the GSS be based on proper legislation," he said. (Ilim)

Rabin agrees to discussion on CIS aliya

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed yesterday to hold a special debate to discuss the aliya from the CIS, at the request of Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban.

The debate, which ostensibly marks five years of Russian aliya, will deal in depth with the recent media reports of crime among Russian-speaking immigrants.

Tzaban recently met with Police Minister Moshe Shabai to discuss ways of educating policemen about the importance of aliya and the Russian immigrants' contributions to Israeli society, following leaks from police sources about crime rates among the olim, the Absorption Ministry spokesman said.

Women's IDF service cut

The IDF has decided to cut women's military service to 19 months, it was announced yesterday. Only those soldiers serving in vital positions will serve an additional two months.

Iraq: We will never recognize Israel

Iraq yesterday indignantly denied a *Ha'aretz* report that it was ready to recognize Israel.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraq had no intention at all of recognizing Israel or having contacts with any of its officials.

Ha'aretz said yesterday that Iraq was ready to recognize Israel and had asked Morocco to mediate between them.

"Let it be known to *Ha'aretz*... and other Zionist circles standing behind such bubbles and balloons that Iraq will disappoint their sick hopes and ailing wishes," INA said. (Reuters)

Palestinian security officer killed in Gaza

Assailants shot and killed a captain in the Palestinian security forces yesterday and stole his pistol, police said.

The officer, identified as Capt. Said Abu Salim, 43, was shot and critically wounded in the stomach as he got into his car in Deir el-Balah. The victim died at a Gaza City hospital, police said.

Abu Salim, a member of the Palestinian intelligence services, was in uniform when he was attacked, police said. The identity of the assailants was not known. (AP)

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 2, 6, 10, 22, 25 and 29, and the additional number was 5.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, queen of hearts, jack of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

We mourn the passing of our beloved

LACI HEGEDUS

The funeral will take place today,
January 11, at 1:30 p.m.,
at the Kfar Samir Cemetery.

The Family

Tzemach Tzedek Center, Jerusalem

We extend deepest sympathy to

Marsha Roth

on the passing of her mother

IRENE COOPER ירנה קופר

המקום יתום אתכם בתוך שאר אנשי ציון וירושלים

The first yartzheit of our beloved daughter

SHARON

will take place at 2 p.m. on Friday,
January 13, 1995 at Har Hamenuhot,
Givat Shaul, Jerusalem, Har Tamir

Nehama and Herzl Dunsky
and Family



The Minister for Religious Affairs
The Director-General,
Management and Staff of the Ministry

offer sympathy to their colleague,
Uri Mor

Director of the Department for Christian Affairs
on the death of his mother

ESTER MOR

בנחמת ציון וירושלים

Shiva at 42 Rehov Midbar Sinai,
Givat Hamivtar, Jerusalem.

1501 מנחם אלון

Kahalani to seek 'reinforcement' of Golan Law

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR MK Avigdor Kahalani may have triggered yet another party crisis yesterday when he announced that he intends to present a bill for "reinforcing" the Golan Law to the Knesset next week, even if it means defying party discipline.

Speaking at the Third Way's first council meeting, Kahalani said that the bill conditions any renunciation of territory on either the approval of 50% of the voters in a referendum or a majority of 70 MKs.

Kahalani said he was prepared to evacuate the Golan "only in 50 years. The negotiations are conducted badly. I cannot live with the way Labor is today, changing its platform so drastically. I'll fight for my opin-

ions to strengthen Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin from the right."

Rabin sees the Golan reinforcement bill as an attempt to clamp restrictions in advance on the negotiations with Syria and the party leadership is expected to impose faction discipline on all its members to foil the legislation.

Kahalani said yesterday that he has no intention of "withdrawing the bill or abandoning the defense of the Golan. I don't believe that Labor would take any steps against me, or act to expel me from its ranks." He also said that he does not consider his move an indication that the government has failed in its handling of the Golan.

Rubinstein favors keeping Gush Etzion under Israeli rule

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein said yesterday that he favored keeping the Gush Etzion settlements under Israeli rule in a future peace agreement.

"The [1949] armistice lines are not a recognized international border and require modifications," Rubinstein told pupils at the Neveh Shmuel yeshiva high school in Efrat.

"My opinion is that the Gush Etzion settlements should remain under Israeli sovereignty in the framework of a permanent peace settlement, and I shall work towards this," Rubinstein said.

At the same time, he stressed: "We must get out of the vicious cycle of battles and of ruling another people that does not want us and does not have rights."

Asked about relations with the Palestinian Authority, Rubinstein said that there were numerous differences of opinion, "particularly on security issues."

Possibly we should show greater flexibility on political issues if we cannot make concessions on security matters."

With regard to suicide terrorists, Rubinstein said there were no solutions. "Anyone who tells you they can solve that problem, is misleading you," he told the pupils.

Earlier, Rubinstein met with Efrat Local Council head Yonon Ahimani and teachers from the area. From Efrat, Rubinstein went to Alon Shvut, where he answered questions about the political situation in a meeting with yeshiva students.

"We all have to set an overriding value for ourselves: to honor decisions taken democratically by the cabinet and the Knesset," he said. "Differences of opinion are legitimate, but maintaining the rule of law and abiding by democratic decisions are the very foundations of Israeli society."

Mena demands Peres censure Egypt for interference

LIAT COLLINS

LIKUD whip David Mena is demanding that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres urgently call a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador "to chastise him for Egypt's involvement in Israeli politics."

Mena said the Egyptian president's advisor Osama Baz was planning to use his upcoming visit to help form a joint Arab list to run for the Knesset.

Mena called the plan "hutzpa" and "crude interference in Israeli domestic affairs."

He accused Ambassador Bassiouny of "forgetting his ambassadorial position and acting like

a representative of Rabin's coalition."

Meanwhile, MK Benny Begin (Likud) is demanding that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin stop talks on the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Begin accused Arafat of involvement in Hamas terror and said that last week the PLO chairman sent his personal representative, Amin Laham, to express condolences to the families of the Hamas members killed at Beit Sahour.

The Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the subject.

Five Palestinians held in capital for setting up vigilante force

BILL HUTMAN

FIVE Palestinians suspected of operating a quasi-police force in eastern Jerusalem have been detained since Sunday by Jerusalem police, police sources said yesterday.

The five, and several others still at large, were caught after videotape of some of them interrogating and beating up an Arab drug addict was shown on Channel One Friday.

It remains unclear who is behind the operations of the Palestinian policemen in Jerusalem, the sources said. The gang may be locally operated, or connected with the Palestinian Police in Jericho and Gaza, the sources added.

Israel Police has been largely unable to contain the police operations conducted by Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem.

Saudis unwilling to fund lion's share of Middle East development bank

MILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

SAUDI ARABIA will not assume a lion's share of the responsibility for funding a Middle East development bank, a knowledgeable Arab diplomat said here yesterday.

Representatives from 37 countries and international financial institutions are holding a two-day conference to discuss the formation of a Middle East Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development. The meetings are an outgrowth of October's regional economic development conference in Casablanca.

"Everyone in the world is moving toward free enterprise, and the Middle East is moving toward more government - and we really don't need that," the diplomat told *The Jerusalem Post*.

However, at yesterday's first full day of meetings on the development bank, the Saudi representatives did not veto the notion outright. According to Israeli sources, the Saudis said they did favor a financial mechanism for regional development, but suggested that all options be explored first.

The sources also said that several European countries, particularly Germany and France, see the bank as a vehicle for US domination, relegating Europe to a funding role.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir called on the gathering to embrace the development bank as "a window of opportunity" that should not be missed.



Avigdor Kahalani hugs Golan settlers' leader Yehuda Harel at the Third Way's council meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday.

IDF strikes at Hizbullah north of security zone

DAVID RUDGE

EXTENSIVE fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday after Israeli troops attacked Hizbullah gunmen in an operation north of the security zone late Monday night, and IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah bases yesterday afternoon and again last night.

Several Hizbullah activists were reportedly killed or wounded in the clash with Israeli troops near Shakra, north of the zone.

The IDF Spokesman said the soldiers attacked a terrorist patrol north of the zone and had subsequently all returned safely to their bases.

Hizbullah did not announce any casualties, preferring instead to say that its "holy fighters" had thwarted an attempt by "Zionist troops to enter the liberated areas of south Lebanon from the occupied area and drove them back."

The operation by the Golan Brigade troops north of the zone was reported to be part of the ongoing military actions by the IDF to thwart terrorist attacks against IDF and South Lebanese

Army targets in the security zone.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters yesterday in Jerusalem that the actions in Lebanon were varied, primarily defensive.

"Together with this, we won't give the terrorists freedom of movement," he said. He added that the IDF and SLA are securing the border area and the security zone.

In an apparently unrelated development, Hizbullah gunmen blasted SLA targets in the Jezzine enclave north of the zone shortly after midnight Monday, as well as IDF and SLA positions inside the eastern sector of the zone.

Two SLA soldiers were lightly wounded during the bombardments which continued early yesterday morning.

Hizbullah itself claimed it had shelled 11 SLA and IDF positions with a barrage of mortar and Katyusha rocket fire.

IDF and SLA gunners re-

sponded by hitting suspected terrorist targets, including infiltration trails with scores of artillery, tank and mortar rounds.

Reports from Lebanon said most of the fire was aimed at Mushghara and Beka'a, near the Bekaa Valley, areas of Hezbollah, causing many residents to flee their homes.

UNEPH positions manned by Norwegian troops were hit by the crossfire, but no damage to the outpost, causing some damage but no casualties.

Hizbullah gunmen also fired several Katyusha rockets and mortars at Mushghara, the heart of the zone's security zone. There were no reports of casualties in that attack.

Later in the day, IAF warplanes struck for the first time this year at Hizbullah targets in the J'bal Shuffa sector, near the al Toufah region, north of the zone. The IDF spokesman said the target was the headquarters of the target, and that the planes had returned safely.

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SUPER-SOL-HYPERCO

May Bethlehem NOT become a second DAMOUR!



Interior of the Maronite church in DAMOUR, desecrated by the PLO in 1982

In the name of millions of Christians the world over, of many different denominations and backgrounds, including the Christian minorities in the Middle East, we express our deep concern lest the Israel Government hand over the city of Bethlehem to the murderous PLO organization and its Hamas allies. This would bring the birthplace of King David and the "Son of David" under the control of those who ravaged the city of Damour and much of Christian Lebanon, desecrating religious institutions there.

They should not be entrusted with the city of the birth of that great Prince of Peace who came to bring peace on earth and goodwill toward men, as announced by the angels in Ephratah.

Leadership Committee for a Free Middle East
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem
and Bridges for Peace

May Bethlehem NOT become a second DAMOUR!

State asks High Court for wiretap evidence to be kept from defense

RAINE MARCUS

STATE Attorney Dorit Beinisch petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday, demanding that prosecution evidence be withheld from private investigators Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsur, charged with wiretapping the phones of hundreds of media personalities and politicians.

"The public will not benefit from knowing details of the evidence," wrote Beinisch in her petition, adding that the prosecution's case would be harmed if all evidence is transferred to the defense.

Three weeks ago, Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Zecharia Caspi ordered District At-

torney Rafi Levy to transfer relevant evidence to the defense, but the prosecution is still withholding the material.

The evidence includes statements by *Ma'ariv* publisher Ofer Nimrodi and *Yediot Aharonot* publisher Amnon Mose. It was obtained when the two were questioned by police seeking the person who commissioned Friedman and Tsur to tap hundreds of phones, cellular phones and fax machines.

On Monday, Friedman and Tsur's lawyers asked Caspi to drop the charges against the two, claiming that evidence essential

to preparing the defense has not been handed over by the prosecution.

Meanwhile, a private investigator and a technician suspected of tapping phones in the Herzliya area are expected to appear in Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing this morning.

The arrests are part of a campaign by the National Crime Squad to crack down on illegal wiretapping.

Police said the two were caught Monday bugging phones in the Herzliya area together with three other men who were released after they cooperated with investigators.

Israelis abroad are key market for tourism

HAIM SHAPIRO

ISRAELIS living abroad on a more or less permanent basis are an important market for Israel's tourist industry, Tourism Minister Uzi Baram said yesterday.

Baram, speaking at a Tel Aviv press conference to sum up his ministry's activities for the past year, said that over 300,000 of them visited the country in 1994, although they were not included in the tourism statistics, which showed a total of over two million.

He also explained the divergence between the ministry's figures and those of the Central Bureau of Statistics, which showed only some 1.8 million tourists as the result of the fact that the bureau's figures did not include some 300,000 cruise passengers.

The tourism minister also noted that although there had been a 12 percent increase in the number of incoming tourists last year, in comparison to 1993, this increase was not reflected in the number of Jewish tourists, which had remained relatively constant.

Tourism from the US, which provided the bulk of Jewish tourists, increased by only three percent, and France, which also has a significant Jewish population, showed only a 4% rise. In comparison, tourism from Germany jumped by 13%.

The increase, he said, also reflected the beginning of tourism from previously untapped markets, such as Eastern Europe, which provided 135,000 tourists. Baram said this area, in particular the CIS, from which tourism jumped by 69% last year in comparison with 1993, had a vast potential.

Other new markets included the Far East (41,000 tourists) and Egypt (20,000), Baram said. He added that the Egyptian tourists' arrival was a direct result of their government's easing of the bureaucratic restrictions on visits to Israel.

Shmuel Tzoref, the ministry's director of marketing, spoke about the government's new aviation policy and noted that the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Privatization has stipulated that this policy should be part of the package when it comes to selling El Al.

Referring to the battle with the Transport Ministry which had finally resulted in allowing Sunquest, a Canadian tour organizer, to operate one charter flight a week from Canada, Tzoref said that he sees the problem as one of bureaucracy, rather than policy.

It was this same situation, he said, which caused delays in granting permission for additional flights for Sabena, and for Alitalia to get permission to add a flight from Milan. He added that the same obstacles are delaying the inauguration of direct flights from South Korea.

Baram said that for the first time, the large bassidic courts are asking the ministry for help in organizing their gatherings, rather than relying on their own organizations. The observant community is an important one, he said, especially regarding internal

US Zionists call on WZO to 'empower Diaspora'

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

ZIONISM in the United States should be left largely to American Jews, said Seymour Reich, president of the American Zionist Movement, in calling on a restructured WZO to "empower" Diaspora communities.

Zionism can serve as a bridge between Israel and US Jewry, but "if we are to convince American Jewry of Zionism's relevance to their own lives, we - the American Zionist Movement - must do it," he said Monday night in a keynote speech to the movement's biennial congress, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"With due respect to our Israeli colleagues and *shlichim*," he said, "only Americans can truly understand American life and culture."

He also criticized the WZO, saying that in the US it functions "without any guidance from or relationship to the American Zi-

onist leadership."

The WZO appears to have "written off" American Zionist leaders, "casting aside the Zionist activists who have served as field commanders and foot soldiers," he said.

He also called on the WZO to stop funding political factions in Israel, saying that "political factions have no place in a restructured WZO and no relevance to the Diaspora. They are an anachronism that must be abolished if the WZO is to retain credibility."

The AZM must raise its own funds and "be less dependent on our friends in Jerusalem," he said.

In turn, a restructuring of the WZO should empower Diaspora Zionist leadership to make its own decisions about local priorities and financing. "No longer should Jerusalem dictate to the Diaspora," he said.

Bill would permit group suits over environmental hazards

LIAT COLLINS

ENVIRONMENTAL organizations and not just individuals will be able to file criminal suits over environmental hazards and nuisances if the private member's bill proposed by MK Benny Temkin (Meretz) passes in the Knesset.

Yesterday the bill, an amendment to the Environment Nuisances Law 1961, was passed by the Knesset Interior Committee. It is expected to come up for first reading shortly.

"The amendment will be an additional weapon in combating environmental problems," said Temkin. Until now, only private individuals have been able to file police complaints against those harming the environment and only a handful of cases have come to court.

"Private individuals haven't got the time, resources, information or money to handle such is-

sues. And often they are scared about tackling a larger body or authority," Temkin said.

In a few instances, groups such as the Israel Union for Environmental Defense (IUED) and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel have pursued complaints in court, but the charges have been filed under the names of individual members. Both the SPNI's Bilha Givon and IUED's Alon Tal who attended the discussion were enthusiastic about the amendment.

The amendment also obliges the relevant authorities, generally the Environment Ministry, to hand over pertinent information regarding the case and take steps to halt the nuisance.

IUED members said that if the amendment becomes law it will help the group pursue cases of severe hazards such as industrial pollution, which private individuals often ignore.

New donor drive for Jay Feinberg

JUDY SIEGEL

THIRTEEN leukemia patients have found bone-marrow donors through the blood-testing campaign organized over the past three years to save 24-year-old Jay Feinberg of New Jersey, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

But Feinberg himself, who is very ill, has still not yet found a donor to save his own life.

Friends of Jay Feinberg will hold another blood-testing drive at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel on Tuesday, January 17.

Some 50,000 people around the world, including several thousand here, have undergone blood tests so far in an effort to find a matched donor for Feinberg.

Feinberg's family members were tested but none had com-

patible tissue. No match was found among the million potential donors listed with the US National Bone Marrow Program or the national bone-marrow data bank at Hadassah-University Hospital.

Feinberg's friends have decided to return to Israel because a suitable donor is more likely to be found among Ashkenazi Jews whose families originated in Sopotkin (Belarus), Warsaw (Poland) and the Ukraine.

Anyone with the names Feinberg, Pliskoff, Pliskovsky, Pliskow, Grossman, Rabinowitz, Gerstein, Gross or Golan may be somewhat more likely to be compatible, but no one of European origin can be ruled out.

Jack Kemp may run for president

STEVE RODAN

FORMER US housing and urban development secretary Jack Kemp said yesterday he would decide by the end of the month whether to seek the Republican nomination president.

Kemp is attending the Jerusa-

the late US senator Henry Jackson will make the decision after the Super Bowl. Kemp was referring to the US professional football finals. "Whether I announce my decision or not is another thing," A full announcement with Kemp will appear next week.

סדרה 1

Court defense

Preparing the defense has been a hard job for the defense attorneys. A private investigator and a technician suspected of being a spy in the Herod's Temple area together with the defense attorneys have been working on the case since the arrest of the defendant.

The defense attorneys have been working on the case since the arrest of the defendant. A private investigator and a technician suspected of being a spy in the Herod's Temple area together with the defense attorneys have been working on the case since the arrest of the defendant.

all on WZO 'Diaspora'

WZO

The WZO is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community in the Diaspora. It is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community in the Diaspora. It is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community in the Diaspora.

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mit group suit mental hazards

MIT

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for Jay Feinberg

Feinberg

The Feinberg group is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community in the Diaspora. It is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community in the Diaspora. It is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community in the Diaspora.

run for president

Run for president

Republicans pledge to maintain current level of aid to Israel

WASHINGTON'S top Republicans have assured Jewish representatives that the party intends to maintain aid to Israel at its current level.

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

There was very little discussion of Middle East matters, participants said.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole and Senate Majority Whip Trent Lott delivered the message in separate meetings Monday evening with leaders of the National Jewish Coalition, a group that supports Republican causes.

"We received assurances from each of them that they believe that there was no [intention] to cut the level of aid to Israel," former NJC chairman Richard Fox said yesterday.

"Each of them, without equivocation, said absolutely they see Israel as a strategic ally to the US, and more specifically, there is no effort on the present economic agenda to reduce the support."

Israel annually receives \$1.8

billion in defense aid and \$1.2b. in economic assistance. President Bill Clinton told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when they met here November 21 that the aid was safe at least through the end of the 1995 fiscal year.

The meeting was the first held between a Jewish group and the new leadership since Congress reconvened last Wednesday under Republican control.

The discussions were opportunities to discuss the new Republican agenda, and how the organization could rally Jewish community support for it, NJC leaders said.

The two sides primarily discussed the Republicans' ambitious domestic goals over the next three months, which the party calls its Contract With America.

But the three congressional leaders said they supported a new bill introduced by Sen. Mitch McConnell, chairman of the foreign operations subcommittee, to slash foreign aid by 20%, while leaving aid to Israel and Egypt untouched. The bill would also " earmark" aid to foreign recipients rather than leave allocation at the discretion of the White House.

Dole told the group he is undecided on whether to support the stationing of US troops on the Golan Heights should Israel and Syria reach a peace deal.

Dole "indicated he would like to see what the final resolution is with Syria and Assad before he would make a conclusion as to whether we should have troops on the Golan," Klein said.

Man jailed for sexually assaulting a minor

A 25-YEAR-OLD man was jailed for 2½ years by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for sexually assaulting a girl who lived in his home since she was nine.

The girl, today 13, was assaulted regularly while she lived at the home of the man's parents, her foster parents. The man also threatened her while performing

sexual acts on her, the court heard.

The offenses only surfaced in 1993 after the girl told a psychiatrist who was treating her because she had threatened to commit suicide and suffered various mental disturbances.

In sentencing, Judge Amnon

Strashnov said the man took advantage of the girl's innocence to satisfy his own sexual needs. But he said he was not imposing a longer sentence on the defendant because he was taking into consideration his personal circumstances — since the start of the offenses, he had served in the IDF, gotten married and now had a family to support.

Expert: Treat anorexics as mental patients

THERE is no alternative but to treat some anorexia nervosa patients in psychiatric hospitals because they must be forced to eat, the head of psychiatric services at the Health Ministry said yesterday.

Dr. Motti Mark was referring to the case of Noga Ankori, a 21-year-old woman who died of the eating disorder on Sunday weighing only 19 kg. Her last interview was due to be broadcast last night on the Gali Gazit TV program.

Ankori's parents have filed a complaint with the Health Ministry, claiming that Noga tried to avoid treatment because of the stigma of being hospitalized in

psychiatric institutions, where severely psychotic patients shared the wards. The parents claimed anorexia was "not a psychotic disease, but an emotional disturbance combined with physical problems."

Ankori, whose anorexia began in fifth grade, had been hospitalized in the psychiatric departments of general hospitals in Jerusalem, Tel Hashomer and Petah Tikva, as well as in the closed wards of psychiatric hospitals. She had refused to eat more than a cup of leben a day.

Mark said he could not com-

ment specifically on the Ankori case, since a complaint had been filed. But he pointed out that there are a number of facilities for anorexics in general hospitals. "This is a chronic disease, thus there cannot be a single facility for all patients throughout the country. They must be close to their families," Mark said.

He added that some patients had to be kept in closed wards of psychiatric hospitals so they would not flee and continue to starve. While there were no beds in general hospitals for adult anorexics, but only for teenagers, Mark noted that the number of adult anorexics is very small.

Human cruelty considered on Animal Rights Day

FOUR-legged stars were absent, but some of their best friends gathered in the Knesset visitors' gallery yesterday to hear a discussion marking Animal Rights Day.

The guests included pop idol Aviv Geffen, singer Itzhak Cohen, playwright Dan Almagor, actress Aviva Marks and representatives of most of the country's animal-welfare groups.

"We have to act as the voice and protector of all helpless groups, including animals who can't speak or protect themselves," said MK Yael Dayan.

"If they could talk, imagine what they would say," she contin-

ued. "What would the dog say after it had been thrown by children into a barrel of tar? What would the cat say after children had thrown it from the window to see if it really had nine lives? What would the two monkeys kept in a tiny cage at the entrance to a discotheque say to the visitors who stubbed out their cigarettes on them?"

Cases such as these are now being prosecuted under the Anti-Cruelty Law passed last year. "A society is judged by the way it treats its animals," said Avraham

Poraz, the law's initiator.

Poraz, and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid who spoke at a separate session, noted the progress both in legislation and enforcement but said there was far to go. Poraz said that animals in the agricultural sector, that are not covered by the current law, would be the subject of legislation now being drafted.

Animal-rights groups marked the day with a country-wide information campaign and projects in some schools. Most of the literature distributed focused on the need to neuter pets to prevent unwanted litters.



Betty Schreiber, 92, and Hanna Sharvit, 12 days old, both of whom underwent heart surgery within the past week, pose together at Beilinson Hospital yesterday. Schreiber had a valve replaced, while Sharvit, who was operated on at the Children's Medical Center in Israel, had to have major blood vessels reversed and other heart defects repaired. (Meir Kfir)

Kollek: 10,000 capital Arabs have opted to become Israeli

SOME 10,000 Arab residents of Jerusalem have decided to take up the option of Israeli citizenship in the last few months, former mayor Teddy Kollek said Monday.

"Since the talk of dividing Jerusalem, a tremendous number of Arabs have decided that freedom under Israeli rule would probably be their best option. Every day, there are long lines of Arabs outside the Interior Ministry to apply for citizen-

ship," Kollek said.

When the city was reunited in 1967, Arab residents were given the option of maintaining their Jordanian citizenship or obtaining Israeli citizenship. At the time, few chose the Israeli option, he said.

Kollek revealed that thousands of Arab parents are also taking their children out of private

schools and registering them for municipal schools. They feel they have lost one generation because it was difficult to study in private schools during the intifada, he said.

Speaking at the conference on the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in Jerusalem, Kollek called on the Jewish public abroad to "start worrying about Jerusalem's future and help us to build a strong and united capital."

Square dedicated in memory of Henry Jackson

HENRY M. Jackson Square, commemorating the senator who was a life-long friend of Israel, was dedicated yesterday in Jerusalem on the corner of Jabotinsky and Yitzhak Elhanan streets in Jerusalem.

Mayor Ehud Olmert and Helen Hardin Jackson unveiled the plaque at the culmination of a conference devoted to the legacy of Jackson and the struggle for human rights, on the 20th anniversary of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The three-day gathering was attended by numerous personalities connected with the struggle to free Soviet Jewry in the West and many of those whom they had fought to free.

Describing Jackson as "a great friend of humanity, the Jewish people and Israel," Olmert said that those who are commemorated in Jerusalem will never be forgotten by Jerusalemites. "Henry Jackson was a leader, a peace-maker and an inspiration for all, who forced his will on the US leadership and across the world," Olmert added.

Speaking of her husband's love for Israel, Helen Jackson said that "it is not enough to say that 'Scop' [the late senator's nickname] was a friend of Israel."

"Scop held Israel close to his heart always," she said. "He regarded Israel as a modern miracle and the refusal to let Jews go there as a cruel irony." She added that her husband would have been honored by the commemorative conference and the ceremony.

Joanne Kemp, co-founder with

of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in Jerusalem, Kollek called on the Jewish public abroad to "start worrying about Jerusalem's future and help us to build a strong and united capital."

Helen Jackson of Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry, expressed the excitement she felt in Jerusalem in seeing so many of the faces of the refuseniks whom she had known during the years of the struggle.

It is appropriate that two righteous Gentiles who insisted on being part of the Jewish people's struggle should be the first to be commemorated in relation to Soviet Jewry, Zionist Forum head Natan Sharansky said.

He noted jocularly that Andrei Sakharov, for whom the gardens at the entrance to Jerusalem are named, is mentioned daily on Israeli radio broadcasts — in connection with the traffic jams there. "I hope the radio will now tell us every morning to drive to

Jackson Square because there is plenty of parking there," Sharansky quipped.

Former US housing secretary Jack Kemp, who described himself as "a Scoop Jackson Republican who co-authored the amendment," said Jackson had "never lost his soul." He was "linked to the belief that the US would lose its soul if it did not sponsor the amendment."

Kemp added: "People have expressed sorrow that Henry Jackson is not here with us today. But he is here as long as his work is being continued by people who want a world without pain, injustice and antisemitism and," he said, turning to the father of an Israeli MIA and refusenik in the crowd, "as long as people care about freeing missing soldiers or elderly Jews who have difficulty leaving their countries of origin."



Reuma Weizman (center) views an early work of Pissarro with Georgetta Homescu (left), wife of the Romanian ambassador, and Stataria Morria, wife of the Liberian ambassador. Weizman hosted ambassadors' wives yesterday on a special guided tour of the Pissarro exhibition at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. "This is one of the most important exhibitions ever mounted at the museum and



Please list off residents' names on a separate piece of paper.

Gingrich spokesman blasted for calling anti-smokers Nazis

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Israel Forum for the Prevention of Smoking last night denounced Newt Gingrich's personal spokesman for calling anti-smoking activists "Nazis."

Gingrich, whose spokesman Tony Blankley used the word in an interview with The New York Times last week, has not dissociated himself from the statement.

The forum, comprising representatives of the Israel Cancer Association, the Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking, Health Ministry, Israel Defense Forces, health funds and other organizations, decided to ask the American Cancer Society to denounce Blankley's statement and to send a letter of protest to the Times.

One of the members of the forum, lawyer Amos Hausner, is the son of the late Gideon Hausner, who was chief prosecutor at the trial of Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann. He told The Jerusalem Post last night that the comparison was despicable, since

ested in saving lives from tobacco-related illnesses, not in murdering innocent people.

"The Jewish people have never recovered their numbers after losing six million to the Nazis; we want to ensure that 5,000 Israelis don't die each year from smoking-related diseases."

Blankley had said in the interview that he plans to "enjoy smoking Winston cigarettes" in his new office and was unconcerned that this might conflict with anti-smoking laws. The Times quote was: "This is the seat of freedom," he said as he smoked his cigarette. "I can't imagine that the [anti-] smoking Nazis have any sovereignty here."

The forum noted that the new Republican-dominated House of Representatives contains a much larger number of pro-tobacco members compared to the previous Democratic-dominated House and feared that they would try to weaken existing anti-

Israelis kept out of Cairo book fair

CAIRO (Reuters) — The Egyptian authorities have rebuffed Israel's latest attempt to take part in the annual Cairo International Book Fair, officials said yesterday.

The officials said the authorities did not respond to a request to allow Israeli publishers to display at the fair opening today.

Israeli publishers took part in the fair in the early 1980s but in 1986 the Egyptian government, citing security concerns, said they could not continue. An Israeli attaché had been killed while attending a separate trade fair in Cairo.

The officials said they do not know the reason for excluding the Israelis but the government, despite 15 years of peace, remains wary of appearing to promote cultural contacts with Israel. The Israeli Embassy also declined to comment.

Culture Minister Farouk Hosni told President Ezer Weizman last month that it was up to Egyptian artists and intellectuals, not the government, to decide on the pace of cultural normalization

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Words and deeds on Iran

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin is merely being realistic when he maintains that Israel is not the only country threatened by Iran. Israel may be Iran's most accessible infidel target, whose presence on what the ayatollahs consider Islamic land is particularly irritating. But the Big Satan is the US, the leader of the despised West. If anything endangers the future of fundamentalist Islam, it is not Israel, but the enrichment of the West's open society, democracy, freedom, mores, media and "decadence."

The corollary is that not only Israel should worry about Iran's military buildup and its pursuit of nuclear warfare capabilities. All the Western powers should be concerned. This is not only because Iran will soon have nuclear warheads and missiles with which to deliver them to the Gulf states and Israel, but because it exports a fanatic anti-Western ideology.

Tehran supports and directs subversive activities in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco and other African states. In Sudan it supports a radical Islamist government and finances training centers for terrorists. In Lebanon it provides money, arms and canon fodder for the Hizbullah. The Hamas organizations in the administered territories, Jordan and Syria also receive Iranian help. In Algeria, located within middle-sized missile range from France, Iran's support may enable the militants to overthrow the military regime and replace it with an Islamic tyranny.

Iran has also proved that it can reach every Western capital with its terrorist agents. It is not only implicated in murderous bombings in Argentina and the US. It has assassinated more than 60 dissidents in exile, mostly in European countries, and has blackmailed Germany and France into releasing its assassins. Iranian groups have even intervened in the war in Bosnia. Perhaps the most nightmarish scenario is that it will be able to arm its terrorist emissaries with a compact nuclear weapon.

As a global threat, Iran has replaced the Comintern. It can count on ideological sympathizers virtually everywhere - Iranian terrorism and subversion have enjoyed the support of local Islamic militants in Europe, Latin America and the US - and it can rationalize the most heinous crimes as means sanctified by a transcendent goal. Just as the Soviet Union was the inspiration and spiritual headquarters for virtually all anti-Western radical movements, so Iran is the adoptive parent of militant Islamic groups.

Israel expects that once the West realizes the dimension and gravity of the Iranian threat, it will harness its considerable resources against Iran. Rabin has repeatedly said that Israel cannot combat the danger alone, and that the US should lead the battle through sanctions, an arms blockade and the diplomatic isolation of Iran. But at present the prospects that such a

concerted effort against Islamic fanaticism will materialize seem slim.

True, the US has what it calls a "dual containment" policy against Iraq and Iran. And no one has been more eloquent in describing the Iranian danger than US officials. The latest such warning was sounded by Defense Secretary William Perry on his visit here this week. President Bill Clinton himself has called Iran the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. In a Chicago speech last August he said "We pledge to work with like-minded countries to meet the challenge of Iran's support for terrorist groups, its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction, and its campaign to subvert moderate regimes that have opted for peace. We call upon all allies to recognize the true nature of Iranian intentions and to help us convince Tehran that we will not tolerate rogue behavior."

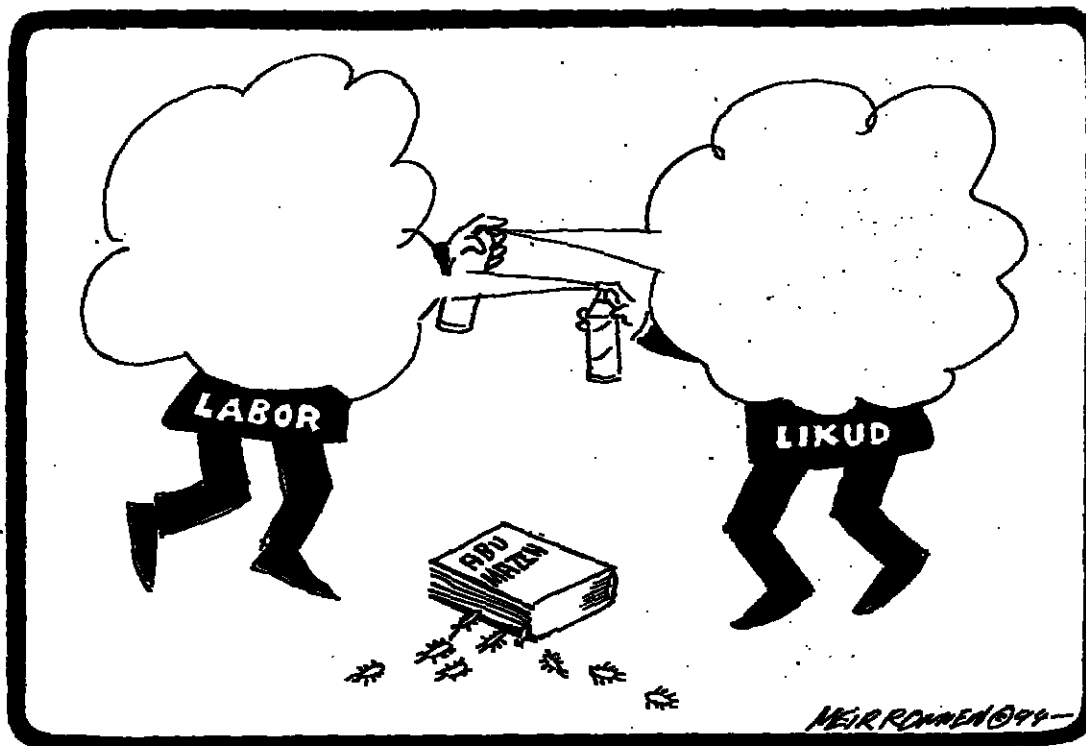
Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been even harsher. "The international community has been far too lenient of Iran's outlaw behavior," he said in October. "Arms sales and preferential economic treatment, the kind of treatment that makes it easier for Iran to divert resources to terrorism, should be terminated. The evidence is overwhelming. Iran is intent on projecting terror and extremism across the Middle East and beyond. Only a concerted international effort can stop it."

These are commendable sentiments. But the Iranians may be forgiven for considering them nothing more than lip service. For the facts simply do not match the rhetoric. One quarter of Iran's oil revenue comes from sales to America, and numerous American firms are trading with Iran.

Even more discouraging is the European attitude. When Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with Germany's Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, he was told that isolating Iran would be a mistake. What Germany is doing, said Kinkel, is conducting a "constructive dialogue" with the Iranians, in an effort to moderate them. Such attitude is common to almost all European governments.

Rationalizations for dealing with aggression-bent dictatorial regimes have been all too familiar in this century. But for the consequences of such thinking one need go no further than the 1980s, when the Western democracies competed with Eastern totalitarians in helping Iraq acquire conventional and non-conventional weapons. That these same weapons were used against Western soldiers in the Gulf War seems to have been forgotten. Nor does the West seem to realize what Saddam Hussein could have done had Israel not destroyed the Osirak reactor in 1981.

Iran has set aside \$30 billion for arms acquisitions in the five years beginning in 1993. It is a safe bet that, rhetoric and warnings aside, no country in the world will be able to resist the temptation of sharing in this pie.



A failure to speak up

EAGER supporters of "the political process" have suddenly begun to sound hesitant and confused.

One recently wrote a "Requiem for the Process." Others have talked about "complications." Some have even begun hinting that the Nobel Peace Prize award may have been a bit premature.

There will be fierce soul-searching. And at its heart, we shall find the "intelligentsia."

Where have they been, and how can one explain their amazing silence, their conformism, their timidity?

Why did they, actively or passively, go along with the hasty measures taken by shallow politicians in pursuit of transient glory? How could such "enlightened" people abandon the essential role of the intelligentsia in society and not protest against the stupid, dangerous path taken by lying leaders who were wrong and misled others?

Why have so many of this so-called elite followed the herd, pursuing "political correctness" instead of the truth?

In the future, people will ask how renowned experts in prestigious strategic research institutes could endorse a security strategy that relied on the other side's supposed intentions and not on its known capabilities? Wasn't it evident that if those intentions changed, Israel would stand exposed and vulnerable?

Why did the intelligentsia act deaf during a process which meant the state's reduction to "Auschwitz" borders, without any possibility of credible deterrence?

Why didn't the economics professors cry out, against the politicians, that defense expenditures (or reserve duty) simply couldn't be cut? After all, it was clear that the length of the new borders, winding alongside the very

MARTIN SHERMAN

fringes of Israel's urban metropolis, and the topographic inferiority that exposed it to absolute Arab control, would necessitate a huge increase in defense spending.

What became of all the Middle East experts? They should, loudly and clearly, have demolished that dangerous delusion called "a

New Middle East," with its vain promises of economic prosperity amid regional harmony.

How to explain their failure to speak up when today's Middle East is dominated by rising Islamic fundamentalism, fed by hatred of Israel, and the unprecedented arms race?

WHY DIDN'T the Israeli experts join in the loud chorus about the global battle of cultures taking place between Islam and Western liberalism, a struggle as powerful as the one against Communism and Nazism?

And why didn't the political scientists point out the contradiction inherent in granting autonomy (limited authority) in response to the demand for sovereignty (unlimited authority) from a group (the Palestinian entity) denying the very basis of the sovereignty of the body (the Israeli administration) supposed to grant it that limited authority?

Didn't they foresee the clashes between IDF soldiers and trained and organized Palestinian mili-

ties with different loyalties and owing allegiance to different command structures from the IDF, which was meant to be "responsible for external security" in areas where those militias were "responsible for internal security"?

Why didn't historians warn loudly about the illusion of demilitarization? Why didn't they show that demilitarization agreements have not only failed to prevent violent clashes between armed forces, but have also sometimes led to the bitterest wars in human history?

Why didn't they force the politicians to answer questions like: "If a demilitarized Palestinian entity is set up on the mountain ridge dominating the coastal plain, who will be responsible for defending it from external threats, since it won't be able to do it by itself?"

Or: "Will IDF soldiers be asked to risk their lives for a foreign regime?" Or: "Can the Palestinian entity sign defense agreements with countries in the region which would, for example, allow an Iraqi or Iranian expeditionary force to be stationed on the rocky slopes over Petah Tikva or the approach to Rosh Ha'ayin?"

Why did so many geographers, geologists and hydrologists remain silent instead of protesting loudly against yielding Israel's water supply to Yasser Arafat's men or, worse, their successors, the disciples of the jihad-preaching ayatollahs?

The questions pile up. But when it becomes clear that there are no answers, the questions will become accusations, indicting both those who worked to promote the squalid "process" and those who did nothing to stop it.

The writer is a political science lecturer at Tel Aviv University.

Soul food

JOYCE GABRIEL

WHAT'S the most important ingredient in a relationship between a man and a woman?

A friend of mine came up with one of the best answers I've ever heard, one her grandmother passed on to her.

"It's consideration," she said. As her grandmother explained, it to her, consideration meant caring about the other person and being there for them. After all, her grandmother had said, life wasn't all good times.

I was struck by the truthness of this bit of simple philosophy.

Consideration should be at the base of all close relationships, but it's especially important between spouses. Paraphrasing grandpa, life is long and it's not all good times.

The same woman who shared this philosophy explained that when she first met her husband, there was no blinding flash, no heat and light.

"I was just struck by how nice he was, how easy he was to be with," she said.

They fell in love over time, but she liked the person he was from the beginning.

There is a lot of wisdom here, too. A lot of people think if

Grandma had it right.

Consideration is what counts

they're not immediately swept away, if there is no instant chemistry, then there can be no great love.

How people fall in love can be as different as the people who do the falling, but it needn't be mercurial to be true. And, in the end, a lifetime of warmth is what counts. Heat and light can fade, but caring and consideration go on, feeding the soul of a relationship even years later.

"Even when I first met my husband, I could picture growing old with him," the same friend said.

I knew immediately what she meant. I remember watching my own husband playing with someone else's toddler, and thinking what a wonderful father he would make. It's this ability to project what a person will be like years later, or in the most important role you could choose for him or her, that tells you respect and liking are there as well as love.

THIS IS a tricky world we live in for a gentle kind of love.

Last is so often offered up instead, as if urgency were the only standard by which to judge the depth of one's feelings. It's a world in which old-fashioned values of kindness and consideration need reminding.

But as my friend spoke about the importance of consideration at a lunch we were having, I saw a few women around the table lean forward, as if they were listening, not just with their ears, but with their hearts. To have that kind of love is like being embraced for a lifetime, protected from the worst life has to offer by the devotion of one's mate.

It reminded me of something my mother said right after my father died.

"Who will tell me I'm pretty anymore?" she asked me. "Even the day before he died, he looked at me and told me how beautiful my hair was."

My dad had still seen her as his pretty wife, had still been considerate enough to pay her a compliment, to want her to bask in his praise.

Consideration may very well be the key to love that nurtures, and love that lasts. When people can share that kind of love, it gives them the strength to get through life.

I thought of another friend who earlier in the week had been up most of the night with a sick child. That morning, her husband was picking up her mother from the hospital, after a brief illness. She mentioned that her husband and her mother didn't get on very well, but there was no question that her husband would take care of her. He would do it because he loved his wife, out of consideration for her.

It seems like the best part of love to me.

The writer is a freelance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO INDOCTRINATION

Sir, - With regard to Aryeh Newman's letter of December 28, "Homosexual relations," I wish to make the following points:

It is naive to couple incest and homosexuality together; homosexual orientations are a matter of genetics and are often only acknowledged after a long period of emotional anguish by the persons concerned.

There is no way someone can be indoctrinated into a homosexual way of life. No one would choose to live with the social stigma that unfortunately exists today against homosexuals in many parts of the world, including Israel.

TRUE HEROES

Sir, - There are those in our midst who, by their conduct, serve as inspiration and model for action.

The visible protest of Rabbi Avi Weiss, Ronn Torossian, and the dozens of Israeli victims of terror in Oslo at the Nobel Peace Prize presentation was a voice of conscience and morality. Theirs was an act that reminded the world of the victims of Arafat and his "organization," a group which has continued to terrorize and slaughter Jews to this day. Their presence was a moral and ethical decision that allowed Jews to retain some respectability when facing the world.

Leaders such as Avi Weiss are leaders on the merits of their actions. Leaders such as Ronn Torossian are leaders on the strength of their commitment to the Jewish people. Many of our "leaders" can write a check large enough to elect themselves to positions of power in our community; however, individuals such as Rabbi Weiss and Ronn Torossian are the true heroes of our people today.

SCOTT DAVID LIPPE, M.D.
Albany, New York.

INAPPROPRIATE GIFT

Sir, - I was surprised to see in your December 14 issue a large picture of Israel's police minister presenting an Israeli-made Jericho pistol to the Romanian interior minister on the occasion of the latter's visit to the Police Ministry. I found it strange and inappropriate.

MRS. GABRIELE ISAACS
Netanya.

STOP THE KILLING

Sir, - As one for whom the saga of Stalingrad (and indeed the legendary heroism of the Red Army in World War II) forms the deepest layer of his emotional and moral upbringing, I am deeply disturbed to see the heirs of that army being ordered to commit atrocities and crimes, for there can be no other words to describe the indiscriminate killing of civilians in Grozny and its destruction by incessant shelling in the course of the Chechnya conflict. I do not know what strategic considerations lie behind these actions, but they certainly constitute grave violations of all international rules and conventions dealing with human rights. Furthermore, modern history (and the history of the Soviet Union) is an outstanding example thereof shows that strategic aims achieved by such means are short-lived and sooner or later develop into much graver strategic problems.

Another point to be considered is that a prolonged war in Chechnya might cause much greater disorders and rifts than already exist in Russia. In such a chaotic situation, someone might be tempted to use "restricted" nuclear weapons to break stubborn resistance. This would be a nightmare not only for Chechnya and Russia, but for the entire world.

Therefore, everything possible must be done to put an immediate end to the killing and destruction committed by the Russian army in Chechnya.

SHLOMO YACOBSON
Karmiel.

SPELLING MISTAKE

Sir, - I often pass the parachutists' monument between Gedera and Rehovot and every time, I am irritated by the spelling mistake on the sign, which reads "Parashutist monument." Would the responsible authorities please correct it?

LOTTY TAL
Timorim.

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Harsh lesson from the past

GREAT Powers have a way of supporting each other, hiding their mutual interests behind the smoke-screen of skillful propaganda. Self-interest has traditionally dominated national strategy and relentlessly continues to do so.

The Chechens' stand against oppression and their desire for independence recalls the tragic Polish struggle against the overwhelmingly stronger Russian Empire in 1863, the third and last of the major Polish uprisings against Czarist rule.

Like the Poles of 120 years ago, the Chechens are making a desperate stand in the face of Russian ruthlessness and the West's total indifference to "a purely internal Russian affair."

The Polish uprising of January, 1863, came in response to the *branka* - forcible conscription of Polish youth into the 20-year military service of a Russian army known for its terrifying discipline. The Poles declared they were fighting in the name of liberty, equality and independence.

The Czar ordered a brutal suppression of the insurrection. Western intellectuals and liberals uniformly supported Polish aims. Sympathetic Western correspondents stationed in Eastern Europe and Russia vividly described battles in which poorly armed Poles successfully challenged the massive forces of Russian infantry and artillery. Russian officers and soldiers, they said, frequently detested their bloody tasks.

A few Russian intellectuals braved their censors and supported the Poles, and a number of foreign volunteers joined the Pol-

ALEXANDER ZVIELI

ish forces.

But Western governments just wanted the suppression to be carried out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Everything, they politely suggested, should be done in the name of law and order.

Czarist propaganda described the Polish liberals as "thieves and

The Chechens' desperate stand recalls another earlier struggle

murderers." Russia's General Muraviev, known as "The Hangman," subjected the insurgents, whom he described as the "scum of the earth," to a cruel reign of terror. (Today's Russian leaders describe the Chechen rebels as "mafia.")

Following Russia's total victory, tens of thousands of Poles were murdered or deported in chains to Siberia. The leaders of the uprising were hanged, others sentenced to a life of hard labor in Russian mines. They were never pardoned.

Poland was subjected to complete Russification. The words "Polish" and "Poland" were deleted from the Russian dictionary and forbidden.

Whole Polish estates were taken over by Russian veterans. Russian soldiers robbed and murdered innocent civilians and carried out a pogrom in the Warsaw suburb of Praga.

IT WAS asked at the time why Russia allowed Finland (annexed from Sweden in 1809) almost complete autonomy, but had resolved to turn Poland into another Russian province.

The answer was simple: Poland was a bridge to Europe, particularly to Germany.

Similar strategic considerations apply to Chechnya, which is a Russian bridge to the south. Indeed, to increase the Soviet sphere of influence in the south after World War II, Stalin resettled the whole Chechen nation in Kazakhstan. The Chechens slowly returned to their former homes only after Stalin's death in 1953.

Just as Czarist Russia was afraid that the Polish uprising would inspire other minorities, such as the Ukrainians, to embark on a struggle for freedom, so today Russia is afraid of the Chechen revolt's impact on the "other republics."

After the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the Chechens enjoyed a degree of freedom. They thought that, like other former Soviet republics, they could be independent. But they were naive to believe that Russia would hand them the bridge to the Caucasus.

The Chechens are Moslems, and may also have believed the Moslem world would aid them. But it seems the Moslem world is reluctant to jeopardize its relations with Russia. Like the Poles in 1863, the Chechens are learning that outside help can't always be relied upon.

The writer is a freelance.

סדקא מן הארץ

The Jerusalem Post
Soul food

JOYCE GABRIEL

Scholar chops her way past old barriers

Talmud professor Tirzah Meacham is a study in determination. Michael Gordon reports on her struggle to break into a largely male preserve



Meacham: At an early age I learned not to trust what males say about females. (Brian Heider)

THE path for Talmud scholars is usually long and challenging. Tirzah Meacham found an even longer route that took her through conversion to Judaism, a premed program and even karate lessons.

Then there was the challenge - hers to a system that excluded women from Talmud studies, even in universities.

Now, two decades later, she is a professor of Talmud, has lectured at prestigious international conferences on Judaic studies and is about to publish her first book.

A professor at the University of Toronto, Meacham is the author of *Laws of Puberty*, a new edition of a 10th-century text on the commandments which take effect when a person reaches adolescence; it is to be published next month. She is working on other books dealing with the laws of ritual purity.

Her accomplishments started when she became the first woman to earn a doctorate in Talmud from the Hebrew University and one of only three women worldwide to hold a PhD in the field. She later earned recognition for her work with an invitation to lecture at the World Congress of Jewish Studies, held every four years in Jerusalem; she addressed the academic congress in 1989 and 1993.

Meacham's achievement is the culmination of a long struggle in a field that was the nearly exclusive realm of males. This deeply entrenched practice found clear expression not only at yeshivot, but at university Talmud departments the world over. Nearly all Talmud lec-

turers had yeshiva educations, and there was an unspoken policy of accepting students with similar backgrounds - meaning only males.

"I am acquainted with several women older than myself who were accepted as Talmud students," says Meacham, 45. "Once they realized that the door to a degree would be closed to them, they switched fields."

Prompting Meacham to buck the odds was a personal blend of feminism and Jewish self-expression. "At an early age I learned not to trust what males say about females," she says.

The Jewish thrust came years later. After three years at the University of Wisconsin, first as a premedical student and then as a philosophy major, she converted to Judaism, came to Israel and spent six months on a religious kibbutz. This was followed by a one-year course at the Hebrew University, with emphasis in Jewish education.

Stimulated by the pervasive spiritual atmosphere of Jerusalem, Meacham became curious about the position of women in Jewish tradition. And the only place to learn that, she realized, was the Talmud - an area in which she had no background.

It was during this year that Meacham became friendly with her future husband, Harry Fox. He gave her practical tips for getting into the university's Talmud department, in which he himself was enrolled: Take courses on the history of the Second Temple and preparatory courses in Talmud. At the same time, she was one of the first women in Jerusalem to study karate intensively;

MA thesis, "but apparently it was felt that having a female recipient would prove embarrassing for the sponsoring family, especially since the award entailed delivery of a public lecture. So instead, I was awarded a prize that could be presented at a private ceremony, the Urbach Prize."

Perhaps this was appropriate, since Prof. Ephraim Urbach, who died in 1991 and in whose memory the prize was established, advised Meacham on her MA and Ph.D. theses and was the person who had offered her the most help and support throughout her studies.

In 1974, Meacham married Fox, also a University of Toronto professor and holder of an HU doctorate in Talmud. One of their three children, Tzemah, was the Diaspora champion in the 1994 Bible Quiz in Jerusalem.

TALMUD WAS a difficult field for a woman to break into, but the area of Meacham's specialization - ritual purity - was especially problematic. "Some scholars," she says, "tend to familiarize themselves with limited sections of the Mishna where halachic rulings on ritual purity are concentrated, while devoting little attention to the rest of the codified material on this issue."

"Besides," Meacham adds, "men seem to shy instinctively from this topic."

Ritual purity was a natural topic for someone setting out to clarify women's place in Judaism. Reinforcing her attraction to it was her predilection for biology and medicine. "The Talmud is laden with gynecological and obstetrical issues."

For example, the Sages attempt to determine which stage of pregnancy must be reached for a miscarriage to constitute a "birth." Meacham's premed studies, as well as two years of work in the field of cryobiology (the effect of freezing on living tissues), provided solid background for dealing with the issue.

Another attraction for her was that, with good research, rabbinical attitudes could be assessed accurately. "After all," Meacham explains, "it would be difficult, if not impossible, to schematize the Sages' attitude toward diseases that have either vanished or become rare. By contrast, female anatomy and birth have remained unchanged."

"The scholar's job is further facilitated by the Rabbis'... knack for meticulous detail."

She has found evidence that the opinions of contemporary - male - physicians and thinkers influenced Talmudic rulings.

Pliny the Elder, for example, claimed that menstrual discharge exer-

cised a malignant influence over all nearby objects, and the very glance of a woman during her period would "dim mirrors, blunt knives, kill bees and cause brass and iron to rust and to emit an offensive odor."

It was also believed that intercourse with a menstruating woman would make a man sick and, if the union proved fertile, would produce feeble or insane children. Similar ideas are scattered throughout Talmudic literature.

Meacham disagrees with feminists who say laws of ritual purity are punitive. Males too, she points out, remain impure after ejaculating semen, albeit for one day only. She believes that the biblical seven-day period of impurity for women was based on the model of death impurity.

Her book, *Laws of Puberty*, published by Yad Harav Nissan, takes the original Gaonic work dealing with laws of marriage, divorce, gifts, property transfer, vows, the obligation to observe mitzvot and other areas.

The professor has also prepared a critical edition on Mishna Nidda, to be published in 1995. She is also working on a critical edition of Tractate Nidda from the Jerusalem Talmud and a book about rabbinic views on gynecological and obstetrical issues.

MEACHAM HOPES her experience has opened the door to women. A few are studying in the Talmud Department at the Hebrew University, and one woman teaches Talmud in that university's preparatory courses.

The past century has brought significant progress in Jewish education for women, especially with the recent introduction of programs in high schools, universities and other institutions.

However, "most Jewish women are still not given exposure to Talmud. At schools where Talmud is taught to women, the entrance requirements and the general level are... lower than at institutions for men."

There are precedents for - and "no real halachic obstacle in the way of" - educating Jewish women, she says. There is evidence that wealthy rabbis in Tannaic times, including rabbis, educated their daughters.

Jewish cultural history took a turn in the other direction, because men believed they were intellectually superior to women.

"An entire mythology has evolved about women not being capable of learning Talmud. It is time for this to end, because if anything, the opposite is true: modern theories of learning claim that women are better than men in drawing conclusions from a series of examples - a common situation in the Talmud."

In the 'New Jerusalem,' Filipinos await the Messiah

ALISTAIR MCINTOSH
MOUNT BANAHAO, Philippines

POPE John Paul II could find himself upstaged when he visits the Philippines tomorrow, as Jesus Christ himself is expected here at any moment.

And while the head of the Roman Catholic Church confines himself to Manila, the Son of God will head for Mount Banahao.

"This is the New Jerusalem," said Romy Aguilar, a gentle and sincere 36-year-old who has lived on the mountain for 16 years since first coming here to be cured by its healing waters.

He and thousands of others who either live on Banahao or visit regularly are convinced the mountain is sacred and that the Messiah will return here in triumph at any moment.

The Philippines, the pope's first stop on a four-nation tour, is Asia's only mainly Catholic country and a tolerant host to a whole range of spiritual beliefs.

A British periodical of the occult once said the Philippines has the world's highest rate of spiritual phenomena. Filipinos discuss such matters with as much apparent ease as people in other countries talk of the weather.

Newspapers report apparitions of the Virgin Mary with no trace of skepticism, fortune tellers and hawkers of magic charms haunt church precincts and there is widespread popular belief in spirits called "duende," or mischievous dwarfs.

Banahao is home to several



A Filipino faith healer exorcises a mentally ill devotee in a Mount Banahao waterfall. (Reuters)

sects with beliefs ranging from Catholicism strongly tinged with mysticism to bizarre distortions of Christianity featuring magical crosses and exotic symbols, such as a single eye.

And then it gets really strange. The Rizalistas, for example, believe that Jesus Christ and the Philippine national hero, Jose Rizal, were one and the same. They say this was revealed to the sect's founder, a young woman who was being crucified at the time.

Crucifixions are something of a national pastime, with dozens of people volunteering every Easter all over the country to reenact Christ's execution.

The Rizalistas have a temple at the foot of the 2,177 meter Banahao, 80 km east of Manila. The congregation faces in one direction to pray to Jesus and then turns the other way to worship Rizal, a doctor of medicine and revolutionary shot by the Spanish colonial government in 1896.

They show visitors a prized relic - a piece of paper with scrawlings said to be done by Jesus Christ when he was a child. They have been made by what looks remarkably like a ballpoint pen.

FATHER JAIME Bulataw, a Jesuit priest, psychologist, author and believer in duende, suggests one reason Filipinos are willing to accept beliefs others may scorn is that their country has never undergone an industrial revolution. The country of 65 million people has escaped the materialism that afflicts developed countries and the strictly logical patterns of thought that accompany it, he said.

Catholicism, which arrived here with the Spanish 400 years ago, has also been grafted on top of a much older, animist tradition with a lively belief in spirits.

"A typical Filipino is at home in either set of beliefs," Bulataw said.

Aguilar said he has seen hundreds of miraculous cures by the river, including that of an AIDS victim from India.

"Everything can be cured here, especially cancer," but without faith in God, nothing is possible, he said. (Reuters)

Sorcerers, faith healers work in the shadow of the Church

EVERY day thousands of Filipino Catholics file into Manila's baroque, 16th-century Quiapo Church for worship and prayer. Beside the church, vendors sell magic potions and amulets along with rosaries.

Local folklore is rich in "kulam," or black magic. Many Filipinos see nothing wrong in venerating Catholic saints, reciting the rosary and then consulting an oracle to drive away evil spirits.

Officially, the Church frowns on such practices, but makes no attempt, for example, to expel the vendors from the Quiapo Church. They do a brisk business selling amulets, "mystical" chants and potions to cure illness and drive away evil spirits.

Ironically, one of the most popular potions promises to regulate menstruation, but it is often used by poor Filipino women to stimulate abortion.

The "baylan," or spiritual medium, is plays an important role. These charismatic figures have emerged often throughout Philippine history, using a mixture of Catholicism, animism and folk beliefs to build a following. Sometimes, the results have been disastrous. In May 1967, a baylan named Valentin de los Santos led hundreds of followers on a mass march to Manila to overthrow the government and establish a theocratic state.

His followers, convinced of their invulnerability because of their amulets, were gunned down by police and de los Santos was arrested. At least 33 people were killed, and de los Santos died in jail soon afterward.

The rich and powerful are often venerated after their death to the point of deification. Scores of cults worship the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Faith healers and sorcerers abound, especially in the northern city of Baguio, the central islands of Siquijor and Panay and in the town of Binangonan on the eastern outskirts of Manila.

Thousands of them gather annually during Easter Week in various areas believed to be inhabited by spirits - a throwback to the pre-Christian animist period.

Their big day is the Saturday following Good Friday because, tradition holds, God is dead and Satan holds sway until the resurrection on Easter Sunday. (Associated Press)

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Chechnya cease-fire collapses

GROZNY (AP) — A temporary cease-fire in Chechnya collapsed within hours yesterday as Russian and rebel forces pummeled each other with artillery and machine-gun fire in a desperate battle for the city center.

The truce, announced by Moscow early yesterday and apparently welcomed by the Chechens, was meant to last 48 hours to give both sides a chance to gather their dead and wounded and allow civilians to flee battle-ravaged Grozny.

It proved only a fleeting pause in the bloody fighting in the Chechen capital, shattered by nearly a month under siege including 11 days of a Russian ground attack.

Sniper fire sounded throughout the informal truce and it broke down completely after four hours when salvos of Russian artillery slammed into the city center. Both sides immediately accused the other of violating it.

Government leaders in Moscow and Grozny spoke of the need for further negotiations, but their remarks were overshadowed by the resumption of fierce fighting and harsh statements.

"Russia is sending in reserves to annihilate our nation. But our forces have fought well... and we will be victorious," Col. Aslan Maskhadov, the armed forces commander in secessionist Chechnya, said on Chechen TV.

"Our army will fight to the last — we are ready to die for our independence and our freedom," he declared.

In proposing the cease-fire, the Russian government had reiterated its demands that the Chechens lay down their arms and return



A Russian protester rings a bell to attract attention as she and a small group of "Mothers of Soldiers" demonstrate outside the Defense Ministry in Moscow to protest Russian army activities in Chechnya.

captured Russian soldiers. But the Chechens said they were holding Russian prisoners in the presidential palace and would not release them.

The Russian news agency RIA reported that Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev later yesterday welcomed the truce offer but wanted to add several new clauses, including opening corridors for food supplies and humanitarian aid.

Crucial aid for tens of thou-

sands of people who fled the fighting in Chechnya was being delayed by Russian bureaucrats who have failed for 10 days to permit a team of experts to fly to the area, the UN refugee agency said in Geneva.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin re-emphasized the need for peaceful negotiations to end the crisis, even as his government was issuing statements saying the "armed gangs"

had violated the truce from the start.

Russia's strategy in Grozny is not clear. The Russian army clearly has the firepower to reduce the palace and the rest of the city to rubble and the lightly armed Chechens would not be able to hold out for long.

But the fighting has been seen-sawing around the palace for several days with the Chechens using rockets and grenades to hold off the Russians. The Russian troops

reportedly are dispirited.

Massive Russian reinforcements appeared to be pouring into the region, indicating the Russian high command was holding back while preparing for a massive attack.

In a nationwide poll, 78.9 percent of Russians surveyed by the International Sociological Research Center said the fighting should be halted immediately and Russian troops withdrawn.

NY terror trial might last 9 months

NEW YORK — Potential jurors gasped when a judge told them it might take nine months to decide the case of an blind Egyptian cleric and 11 other Muslims charged with plotting a series of assassinations and bombings.

With the jury pool out of earshot, a defense lawyer told US District Judge Michael Mukasey that other shocks might be in store if the jury isn't told the case will involve controversial statements about Israel, Islam and other issues.

"The first time a tape is played where they say, 'Let's kill the Jews,' I don't want the jurors in this case jumping up and saying, 'Why didn't you tell us about that?'" defense lawyer John Jacobs said during the start of jury selection Monday. "I think we are hiding our heads in the sand at this point in the case."

The judge replied, "This is one of the few times in my career that I have been accused of being not sufficiently inflammatory. I will try to sprinkle a few more drops of gasoline in it for tomorrow, if you'd like."

When jury selection resumed yesterday, Mukasey added a mention of Israel in his remarks to a second group of 100 jury prospects, and said the indict-

ment charges that the crimes were allegedly carried out by a radical Islamic group.

The trial began Monday with Mukasey outlining the case to 100 potential jurors, who were crammed into the courtroom so tightly that 11 had to stand. Several dozen marshals lined the courtroom and nearby hallways, and a bomb-sniffing dog with its own photo ID checked the courtroom.

Mukasey summarized the indictment as describing a conspiracy to commit violent acts "as a way of opposing the United States and United States policy in the Middle East."

The defendants, charged with seditious conspiracy, are accused of plotting the 1993 World Trade Center blast, as well as planning to bomb the United Nations and two tunnels and a bridge connecting New York City and New Jersey.

They also are accused of plotting to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and kidnap or kill US politicians, judges or Jewish leaders. They face life in prison if convicted.

Prosecutors allege that Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman was the mastermind of what they call "a war of urban terrorism against the United States."

Serbs pledge to end Sarajevo siege

SARAJEVO (AP) — Bosnian Serbs promised yesterday to end their blockade of Sarajevo, lending an upbeat note to a day when new fighting and diplomatic conflict threatened a lasting truce.

The Serbs, however, continued to demand that the government army vacate key positions overlooking Sarajevo. The unspoken threat was clear: Even if the Serbs keep their promise, they can blockade Sarajevo anew unless their demands are met.

If the Serbs open roads linking Sarajevo with other government-held territory, they would be meeting some terms of a planned four-month truce signed December 31.

But a Bosnian Serb statement reiterated demands that government forces, in addition to vacat-

ing a demilitarized zone around Mount Igman southwest of Sarajevo, also withdraw from two locations east of the zone. The latter demands are not part of truce conditions.

"Despite the fact that the Muslims (government troops) keep refusing to withdraw their forces from the illegally occupied ground on Mt. Igman and Mt. Bjelasica, the Serbs are nevertheless going to open up the routes for civilian traffic in and out of Sarajevo by the end of the week," the statement said.

That would open two roads — one linking Sarajevo to government-held areas to the south, the other connecting the city with Visoko, 13 miles to the north, and with areas in central Bosnia.

The roads played a vital role in

feeding Sarajevo's 280,000 residents until the Serbs closed them in July.

Serb forces made clear their demands for further government withdrawals stood.

"We shall insist that the Muslims withdraw from the zones on Mt. Igman and Mt. Bjelasica... because they would otherwise be putting at risk the entire peace process," the statement said.

The four-month truce is designed to cool tempers enough to give permanent peace a chance. International negotiators want new talks on a plan that would divide the republic between Serbs and a Croat-Muslim federation.

The plan would give 49 percent of Bosnia to Bosnian Serbs, who have captured 70 percent of the republic since April 1992.

Floods sweep California

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) — Rains brought misery to Californians from the scenic wine country to fashionable Beverly Hills yesterday as storms and floods forced thousands of evacuations, inundated homes and cut off roads.

More evacuations were expected from the Guerneville area of northern California, where the Russian River burst its banks after days of torrential rain, flooding the town and a wide surrounding area.

Scores of homes were flooded and water-logged cars were abandoned in the worst flooding in the region in nine years.

In some areas, there was water as far as the eye could see, broken only by the roofs of houses and the tops of trees. Many vineyards were submerged and Guerneville, 80 kms north of San Francisco, was cut off.

About 2,000 people have been evacuated from several areas of northern California because of the floods, emergency officials said. The areas hardest hit are Sonoma and Napa counties, where most of California's wine is produced.

Local radio reported that a motorist died yesterday in Sonoma County when a tree crashed into his vehicle, the second death related to the northern California storms.

In southern California, the third winter storm in six days closed highways, forced school closures, created mudslides and left a fashionable Beverly Hills area without power.

Mahfouz attackers sentenced to death

HAEKSTEF, Egypt (AP) — A military court yesterday sentenced two Muslim extremists to death and 11 to prison terms in the stabbing of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz. Three defendants were acquitted.

The defendants, mostly bearded young men in flowing white robes, chanted defiant Islamic slogans after Judge Ahmed Abdullah read out the sentences in a five-minute court session.

Their families, who were not allowed into the courtroom, screamed and cried hysterically as they learned of the sentences at the entrance of the Haekestef military barracks outside Cairo.

Women fainted, and many tried to run after the heavily

guarded truck carrying the chanting defendants back to prison. The families protested the defendants were innocent.

The 83-year-old Mahfouz was accused by radicals of being an apostate — one who denied his Muslim faith — because of a 1959 allegorical novel that made references to such religious "figures" as Jesus and Mohammed. It is considered blasphemous by Muslim critics.

Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, the blind Egyptian sheik who is being tried in New York on charges of planning attacks on American landmarks, declared in 1989 that Mahfouz should be killed because of the novel, titled *The Children of Gebelawi*.

Charles' mistress gets a divorce

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles' very close friend, Camilla Parker Bowles, yesterday announced she and her husband have agreed to divorce.

The announcement brought an inevitable flurry of speculation that Camilla Parker Bowles might one day marry Charles. But the prince's spokesman said that he and Princess Diana, who separated in 1992, had no plans to divorce.

Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, 55, and his wife, 47, are parting by mutual consent, according to their joint statement, issued by their attorneys. The divorce becomes final this month.

According to Jonathan Dimbleby's biography, *The Prince of Wales*, published last year with the authorization of the prince, Charles has had three affairs with her — two after her marriage.

"Of course she is the love of his life; there is no denying that now, since he has made a clean breast of it himself," Lord Charteris, former private secretary to Queen Elizabeth II, said in an interview published in the current issue of *The Spectator* magazine.

Charteris said the royal family was resigned to Charles and Diana eventually divorcing. "Divorce will clear the air. And, yes, of course he will be king," Charteris said.

Divorce would put Charles in an awkward position as head of the Church of England, which does not recognize second marriages.

Lord St. John of Fawley, regarded as an expert on Britain's constitution, said there was no reason why a divorce from Diana would bar Charles from becoming king.

"We've had divorced sovereigns before," Lord St. John said on BBC television.

"Even if Prince Charles wished to marry again, that would not

affect his rights of succession under the Act of Settlement, and it might create problems with the Church of England because the Church of England at the moment doesn't recognize second marriages, but it wouldn't affect his constitutional position as head of the church.

"So, it would be constitutionally, a non-event. But that of course leaves aside the political and social repercussions," Lord St. John said.

David Starkey, a lecturer in history at the London School of Economics, agreed that divorce would not block Charles' path to the throne.

Starkey said it was striking that Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey and Prime Minister John Major "have gone out of their way to make it clear that a royal divorce has no impact at all on Charles' accession and they have even implied — with the bishop of St. Albans (John Taylor) stating it explicitly — that even a royal remarriage would not be indigestible."

Parker Bowles, a former Silver Stick in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth II, married the former Camilla Shand in 1973. They have two children: Tom, 20, and Laura, 16.

Published reports claim that Parker Bowles, who retired in December as director of the army's Veterinary Corps, also had affairs outside the marriage.

"Throughout our marriage we have always tended to follow rather different interests, but in recent years we have led completely separate lives. We have grown apart to such an extent that, with the exception of our children and a lasting friendship, there is little of common interest between us, and we have therefore decided to seek divorce," statement said.

"As we have no expectation



Camilla Parker Bowles in a 1992 photograph.

that our privacy will be respected we issue this statement in the hope that it will ensure that our family and friends are saved from harassment," the statement added.

The royal family was embarrassed in 1993 when newspapers published transcripts of an intimate, sometimes earthy telephone conversation between Charles and Mrs. Parker Bowles.

They had met in 1970 at a polo match, and were drawn together by mutual enthusiasm for polo, hunting and country life. The re-

lationship reportedly cooled when Charles joined the navy in 1971.

Diana reportedly was intensely jealous of Charles' friendship with Mrs. Parker Bowles, although the prince said in a television interview last year that he had been faithful to Diana until their marriage had broken down irretrievably.

A book published last year with the cooperation of James Hewitt, Diana's former riding instructor, claimed that he and Diana had a love affair which began in 1984.

Senate panel confirms Rubin for Treasury

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Treasury Secretary nominee Robert Rubin won swift confirmation from the Senate Finance Committee yesterday only minutes after the panel's members had begun to question the former Wall Street executive.

At the urging of the panel's chairman, Senator Bob Packwood, an Oregon Republican, Rubin was confirmed in a unanimous vote by the committee after members of both parties praised him strongly.

"The president has chosen wisely," said Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican who introduced Rubin to the panel. Rubin is expected to win approval from the full Senate.

Rubin, 56, has spent the last two years as head of President Bill Clinton's National Economic Council.

In his opening statement, Rubin offered to work with the new Republican-controlled Congress in shaping economic policy. But he set out clear markers on what he thought that should entail.

In prepared testimony, Rubin defended the administration's economic record in its first two

years in office but acknowledged that more needs to be done.

"Much remains to be done at this critical juncture if our country is to prosper," he said. "It is crucial that the administration and Congress work together effectively."

He sounded a conciliatory note to Republicans. "I am pragmatic, and I believe that differences can usually be resolved, not always but usually," he said.

"I also believe that there are no easy answers to the significant issues of economic policy and that difficult trade-offs are almost always involved."

Rubin suggested four principles to guide economic policy: maintaining fiscal discipline, promoting productivity, supporting international cooperation and modernizing financial markets.

"Tax cuts or spending programs must be paid for, and we must sustain our efforts to continue reducing the deficit," Rubin said.

But he also backed a reordering of the budget to emphasize education, training and what he called other "essential" public investments.

Gingrich fires House historian over Holocaust remarks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The speaker of the US House of Representatives fired his new House historian after learning she complained in a 1986 document that a school course on the Holocaust failed to present Nazi and Ku Klux Klan views.

Hired less than a week ago, historian Christina Jeffrey charged yesterday that she was "fired in the press" because of "slandering and outrageous" allegations.

Jeffrey headed a panel that recommended that the US Department of Education withhold funding for the Holocaust course.

In concluding remarks about the course "Facing History and Ourselves," designed for eighth and ninth graders, Jeffrey wrote: "The program gives no evidence of balance or objectivity. The Nazi point of view, however unpopular, is still a point of view and is not presented, nor is that of the Ku Klux Klan."

"I seem to have been fired in the press," Jeffrey said yesterday in a statement. "Let me say that the charges against me are slanderous and outrageous. I have nothing to say at this time."

First Lady turns to Ann Landers for advice

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over winter vegetables and curry, Hillary Rodham Clinton asked a group of lifestyle writers to help her polish up her image and said she was "naïve and dumb" about how to sell the public on health-care reform.

"Sometimes I read stories and hear things about me and I go, 'Ugh! I wouldn't like her either,'" Clinton said. "It's so unlike what I think I am or what my friends think I am."

"I can only guess that people are getting their perceptions from things I am saying or doing in ways that don't correspond to what I think I am trying to get across."

Basically, the White House has a communication problem, she told a group that included advice columnist Ann Landers and gossip or feature section

writers from *The Washington Post*, *USA Today* and the *New York Post*.

Clinton also blamed herself for the failure of health-care reform, saying she "failed to get the message out to the public. 'I was naïve and dumb because my view was, results speak for themselves.'"

Seeking input on how to present a more accurate image of herself, Clinton, who has undergone more than one transformation already, said, "I didn't get this whole image creation thing. I see what it can do but I'm not sure I get it. I have let other people define me."

None of the articles published yesterday mentioned what advice, if any, the writers offered the first lady.

1520

هذه من الاصل

Depressed Saudi economy fuels political unrest

KIM MURPHY
RIYADH

The businessman was chatting amiably from behind his large desk about any number of things on the mind of a Saudi these days: Traffic jams on the expressways. The transfer of a friend to Paris. Jordan's peace treaty with Israel.

But what, he was asked, of the reports that dozens of his colleagues had been arrested by the secret police? Was it true that thousands of Saudis had taken to the streets recently to protest the arrest of a popular Moslem cleric?

"But we have agreed not to discuss politics," he said lightly as he reached for a yellow legal pad and scribbled something.

He passed it back with another pleasant smile. He offered another cup of tea. The tablet said, "It is possible my office is being bugged."

Then he typed on his word processor, turned on the printer and pushed over another note: "The situation is extremely dangerous and could lead to an explosion... even violence."

A few minutes later, walking out into the hall, the man stopped near the elevator and talked quietly. "There are now more than 400 political prisoners. Most of them being held for nothing at all," he said. "They are held in solitary confinement. They are given their food and water through a hole in the door. Really, it is like Siberia."

There is a certain air of intrigue these days in this gleaming desert capital which is both a modern Land of Oz

fashioned of mirrored skyscrapers and sleek expressways, and a medieval bastion of old Arabia linked irrevocably to the undisciplined sands that creep against its edges.

Saudi Arabia, one of the most secretive nations in the world, bared its interior for the first time four years ago when it threw open its frontiers and hosted hundreds of thousands of international troops to prepare for the battle against Iraq.

In the years after the Gulf war, it folded into privacy once more. It is only recently apparent the extent to which the desert kingdom's flirtation with the outside world - and a new era when huge stores of petroleum can no longer guarantee unlimited luxury and stability - has left an irreversible mark.

A Gulf war debt of more than \$55 billion, coming at a time when oil prices dipped below \$13 a barrel for the first time in five years, has plunged the kingdom into an economic crunch that has almost consumed its once-huge fiscal reserves and forced major budget cuts. It threatens the cradle-to-grave welfare net that has been the ruling Saud family's social contract with its citizens throughout modern history.

At the same time, lingering resentment over massive spending on defense and allegations of corruption within the royal family have produced a popular backlash that has fed Islamic fundamentalist unrest and widespread grumbling within Saudi Arabia's increasingly

cash-strapped middle class.

A kingdom that has prided itself on decades of stability has seen in recent months:

- foreign workers walk off government jobs because they hadn't been paid for months;
- hundreds of demonstrators take to the streets on behalf of a popular Moslem cleric who challenged the government;
- a soaring crime rate, with a 78 percent rise in thefts and a 34 percent annual increase in sex crimes in 1994 as compared with 1992.

A growing number of Saudis complain about mismanagement and corruption within the Saud family but also blame the US, pointing to America's full-court press since the war's end to sign major new defense and infrastructure contracts.

Besides the billions of dollars in military orders with US defense contractors since the end of the war - including \$9 billion to buy F-15 fighter jets, most of which had to be rescheduled when the kingdom couldn't afford the payments - Saudi Arabia has signed a \$4.1-billion contract with AT&T to upgrade its telephone system and ordered \$6 billion in civilian aircraft from the Boeing Company and McDonnell Douglas.

This spending comes at a time when

King Fahd announced a 6% budget cut to shrink the growing deficit, following a 19% reduction last year and other reductions that have slashed service contracts, delayed payments on other contracts and threatened Saudis for the first time with increases in electricity, water and municipal service fees.

"I have a friend who works for an American institute of political research, and I told him it's not for the benefit of the US to get too much money from the Saudi government at the expense of its inside stability," a Riyadh political scientist said. "So what if Saudi Arabia will buy 50 aircraft when the bill is so high? The expense will be political unrest in Saudi Arabia - not now, in the future."

Abdullah Naseef, deputy head of the kingdom's year-old consultative council - a 60-member body of elites appointed by the king to assuage growing demands for democracy - complained that the US probably overstated its case in October when it warned of another imminent Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"It was unnecessary to mobilize forces so quickly and so expensively. While it was justified when [Iraqi dictator] Saddam [Hussein] entered Kuwait, here people thought [the October military buildup] was unrealistic, unnecessary and it was a kind of show.... Some

people say the Americans want us to go bankrupt," he said.

For years, the royal family - which now numbers more than 5,000 princes - has collected commissions on government contracts, enough to buy villas, luxury yachts, private jets and fast cars around the world. Saudis accepted this with little complaint because of the fabled welfare net offered the kingdom's citizens. It includes free health care and education up through the university level, with each student receiving a monthly stipend of \$270. Students outside the cities get free housing.

Air travel inside the kingdom costs next to nothing. The government offers interest-free loans for new homes and free farm land to anyone willing to cultivate it. Electricity, water, gasoline and basic food commodities are all available at a fraction of their cost, thanks to massive government subsidies.

But could this go on forever, especially when oil prices plummeted and billions of dollars had to be pumped into an international defense effort?

Already, the famous Saudi infrastructure is beginning to creak under a population growing at a rate of 3.8% annually. For the first time, Riyadh now has rush-hour traffic jams and electrical brownouts have been forecast for this summer. New houses and offices in Jeddah can't get electrical and telephone hookups; many builders are installing private generators.

The government has responded to its cash crunch with heavy domestic borrowing and heavy budget cuts, likely to dampen at least temporarily the vitality of the private sector and further threaten an increasingly gloomy employment picture: about 65,000 graduates a year enter the job market here with fewer and fewer prospects.

While the government has pledged not to cut into its basic programs, the new budget announced last week raises charges for gasoline, electricity and cooking oil, and officials said the imposition of user fees on some municipal services is also likely. Already there are lines at some specialty hospitals. Loans for industrial, agricultural and real-estate projects were cut by almost half from last year.

The government is examining how best to make further cuts, "but we don't want to, by any means, harm the limited income people," said Hussein Sejini, deputy minister of planning.

Officials here hope to focus on developing the private sector, expanding the Saudi presence in the work force by replacing some 4.5 million imported foreign workers, privatizing some enterprises and capping government administration costs, Sejini said.

The government has also had to cut subsidies on wheat, threatening livelihoods in the volatile Koran belt north of Riyadh that has been a hotbed of fundamentalist Islam.

(Los Angeles Times)

US won't cut aid to Egypt - for now

JOHN LANCASTER and DANA PRIEST
CAIRO

WHEN US Defense Secretary William Perry met this week with Egyptian leaders, he sought to assure them that the Clinton administration will continue to support high levels of US aid, despite the keen interest that new Republican leaders in Congress have expressed for trimming foreign assistance.

But Perry offered no guarantees that aid would not be cut after 1996, and US officials acknowledge privately that the current \$2.1 billion annual aid package for Egypt - of which \$1.3b. is military assistance - cannot be sustained over the long term.

Egypt and Israel receive a combined total of \$5.6b. in US military and development assistance each year. A legacy of the 15-year-old Camp David peace accord, it is by far the largest share of US foreign aid.

Although aid to the Middle East has remained off the table so far, promises from Republicans to sharply cut foreign aid have raised fears among Egyptian leaders that their country may soon be targeted. Although Egypt does not publish figures on defense spending, a Pentagon official traveling with Perry said US aid makes up roughly half the country's military budget.

Egyptian anxiety over the future of US aid has added to tensions between the US and Egypt, which has begun to chart a more independent foreign policy after years of coziness with its principal financial benefactor. Egypt, for example, has nurtured close ties with Libya, which remains an international pariah for its purported role in the 1988 bombing of a Pan American jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

At the same time, US officials are eager to remain friendly with Egypt, both for its strategic value as a transit point for US forces en route to the Gulf region and for its continued, albeit diminished, role as an arbiter of Middle East peace.

Defense officials traveling with Perry said the trip was aimed at smoothing differences

between the two countries and calming Egyptian fears of an aid cut.

Perry assured Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that the Clinton administration will not seek cuts in military aid when it submits its 1996 budget to Congress in the next several weeks.

US officials have made similar comments about the \$815 billion in annual non-military assistance to Egypt. "Egypt is a source of stability and moderation in the Middle East," Perry said at a brief news conference after his meeting with Mubarak.

"Perry said he told Mubarak that 'both [Secretary of State Warren] Christopher and I are committed to defending and defending vigorously that program within the Congress.' He added that he had advised Mubarak to meet with chairman of key congressional committees when Mubarak visits Washington next spring. Perry predicted that the Egyptian 'will be successful in maintaining the aid at a constant level.'"

After his meeting with Mubarak, Perry told reporters that his assurances extended only through the next fiscal year, "so we're talking about a year and a half."

The Defense Department has asked Egypt to submit "a more comprehensive, rigorous" five-year budget to be reviewed by the Defense Security Assistance Agency in October, said Joseph S. Nye Jr., assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. It will take into account not just the cost of new weapons, but what it takes to maintain them over many years. "They are going to have to make some tough choices. The things they want are more than the money available," said a senior defense official who participated in the meetings.

US aid has been largely responsible for the modernization of Egypt's 400,000-man military, allowing replacement of outdated, Soviet-supplied equipment with modern weapons such as F-16 fighters and M-1A1 tanks. (Washington Post)



Saudi Arabian journalists and photographers take a break for evening prayers in Riyadh's King Fahd stadium prior to the opening of the King Fahd intercontinental soccer trophy last week. (AP)

Iraq gloats over French diplomatic move

Jerusalem Post staff and news agencies



NOT surprisingly, the Baghdad government's media lauded France's decision to restore a level of diplomatic relations and used the opportunity to attack the rest of the West for failing to follow suit.

State-run newspapers said the decision propelled into the international limelight Iraq's case for easing or lifting the stiff UN sanctions imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

"After France's decision... Iraq's case is now of international proportions," said the government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya*.

"The positive step by France to open an interests section in Baghdad surprised no one as it was

natural and expected... [economic] interests are one of its two main pillars," the paper said.

In the 1980s France was a major arms supplier, helping to tilt a ruinous eight-year war with Iran in Iraq's favor.

In return, French firms got preferential treatment when bidding for contracts. Iraq has pledged similar treatment in exchange for France's help in having the oil blockade eased.

American criticism of the decision was prompted by "barbarism and hatred," said *al-Jumhuriya*.

Al-Jumhuriya, in an article written by the newspaper's chief editor, Salah al-Mukhtar, claimed that Paris's move showed that the US has begun to lose its ability to influence its former allies and the UN Security Council.

"By complying with all the resolutions issued against it, Iraq has pulled the carpet out from under the United States, exposing the US position on the international

level and within the UN Security Council," it said.

France announced Friday it would soon open an interest section in Baghdad, based at the Romanian Embassy.

Al-Jumhuriya said France had "interests in the region [which] require that its relations with Iraq, which have been harmed by its support for the Western stand, are rejuvenated."

Although a leading contributor to the Gulf war coalition, France has been supportive of Baghdad since it began complying with UN resolutions. That stance, shared by Russia and China, puts Paris at odds with the US and Britain, which favor a hard line until Iraq fulfills all resolutions.

Despite its stance, the US already has an interest section in Baghdad, based at the Polish Embassy, but no US diplomats serve there. French diplomats will man their interest section.

Saddam Hussein meanwhile issued a defiant statement to the

West at the weekend in a televised address to Iraq commemorating its Army Day.

Saddam, wearing his field-marshal's uniform, said the US and its allies "failed to subdue the will of Iraq in the battle of Um al-Ma'arik [Gulf War]."

Saddam said the war showed how a small country could withstand what he called the evil powers of big states.

Algerian extremists: Embassies not targets

PARIS (Reuters) - Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has denied it declared war on France or set a deadline for Western embassies to "shut or face bloodshed" in its struggle to oust the country's military rulers.

The FIS executive in exile said such alleged threats were part of a campaign, "orchestrated by certain Western media," to discredit the Moslem fundamentalist opposition in the former French North African territory.

"Neither the Islamic Salvation Front nor the Islamic Salvation Army (its military wing) has issued such a statement," the exiled FIS leadership said in a declaration faxed to Paris.

"The FIS considers the conflict is limited to the Algerian people on the one side and the military dictatorship on the other, and it... condemns all action against innocents, whatever their views or religion or whoever carries them out," it added.

The FIS statement said "dubious threatening letters" warning some Western governments to close their Algerian embassies by January 7 or face reprisals served only the interest of the army-led government.

The US has confirmed that it was one of several countries, reportedly to include France, Britain and Germany, which received such warnings in the last few days purportedly issued by the hard-line Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

The GIA has claimed responsibility for killing dozens of foreigners since September 1993.

Lebanon sheds war-zone image

BEIRUT
SAMIR F. GHATTAS

ANXIOUS about reclaiming its place as a tourist attraction and business hub, Lebanon is campaigning to shed the image of danger lingering from its long civil war.

The government badly needs foreign help to pay for its \$14 billion reconstruction program.

That means convincing Westerners it is safe to return to Beirut, a capital once known as the "Paris of the Middle East" but which was devastated by the 1975-90 civil war that killed 150,000 people.

The government especially wants to attract US dollars, which were scared away by the war and by attacks on Americans and other Westerners in the 1980s.

Lebanese security experts are going to Washington this month to argue that a seven-year ban on use of US passports for travel to Lebanon is no longer justified.

is reasserting control.

The ban was extended in August and is to be reviewed by the State Department next month.

US officials are concerned that Hizbullah is keeping its arms under the pretext of fighting Israeli troops in southern Lebanon.

Hizbullah opposes the Washington meeting, fearing it could lead to a crackdown by the government. No foreigner has been targeted for kidnapping in more than two years and Hizbullah has called abductions a thing of the past.

Despite the US travel ban, tens of thousands of Americans have visited Lebanon since the war. Travelers with US passports are given an entry visa on a separate sheet of paper.

Many of them are Americans of Lebanese heritage. But the numbers are far shy of those during the prewar days, when a half-million visited each year.

(AP)

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Media reporting on Israel is not only relentlessly unfair but immensely harmful to Israel and to democratic values. The Jerusalem Post's popular and hard-hitting Eye on the Media column cites specific media reports and names to expose the bias, distortions and gross factual errors that plague such coverage. Reprinted here are 97 recent columns on the way the American, European - and Israeli - media report events. Eye on the Media is an eye opener; essential reading for everyone who cares about Israel, truth and journalistic ethics.

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Mexican markets crumble

Exports jumped 13% to \$15.93b. compared with 1993. Three-quarters of the rise reflected increases in machinery, electronics and chemicals exports. Textile exports accounted for 7%

More than half the rise in imports in the last third was due to production input imports, while

The EU continued to be the main source of imports last year,

Consumer imports made up 13% of total imports and increased 20%, following a 9% rise in 1993.

The Spanish peseta and the Italian lira set fresh record lows

"It was really like a thunder-

Upbeat remarks by Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary designate, helped the dollar to recover some of its losses late in the Euro-

JOSE ROSENFELD

Hotels reported that activity was flat compared to the same quarter in 1993.

EVELYN GORDON

Both are opposed by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, but

valization, calling on the government to negotiate with the workers and asking managing director Victor Medina to withdraw his resignation.

Gal: If the government wants to privatize, it would be wise to speed up these laws.

company which owns the Negev's natural resources and which is such a central figure in the Negev's development and employment," he said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

IEC gives Palestinian Energy Authority draft contract: The Israel Electric Corporation has given the Palestinian Energy Authority its draft contract on the operation and commercial arrangements between them. IEC said its sale of electricity to Gaza was up 20 percent in December from the previous month. The last electricity bill IEC sent to the Palestinians was NIS 10.5 million.

Carnival Cruise Lines has no intention of running cruises from *Eilat*, according to *Sylvia Marel*, international sales manager of the popular American cruise company. *Marel*, who is here for a series of presentations to Israeli travel agents, said the company already has an interest in cruises in the Greek islands, but said there were no indications it would establish a route from *Eilat*. Speculation about the possibility of such cruises has arisen due to the availability of gambling on such ships and the continued refusal of the government to allow a casino to operate in *Eilat*. *Carnival Cruise Lines* is controlled by magnate *Ted Arison*.

New deputy director at American-Israel Bank: Rami Kremien has been appointed deputy managing director of American-Israel Bank. He will be responsible for foreign trade, credit and investments, foreign currency and marketing.

WORLD BRIEFS

Japan, US reach finance pact before summit: Japan and the US yesterday reached agreement in talks on financial services, allowing foreign investment advisers to enter Japan's \$200 billion public pension fund market, the government said. Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, in Beijing on the first leg of a tour of Asian nations, said in a statement released in Tokyo that he obtained a final agreement in telephone conversations with US Treasury officials.

Wholesale prices edge upward in December: Prices at the wholesale level rose modestly in December, the Labor Department said yesterday, putting a cap on another year in which inflation remained largely tamed. The department said the Producer Price Index in the last month of the year rose 0.2 percent, putting the price level for all 1994 just 1.7% ahead of 1993 when the annual rate was up only 0.2%.

BT targets \$45 billion German telecoms market: British Telecommunications Plc swept into Germany's \$45 billion-a-year telecommunications market yesterday through a joint venture with diversified German industrial group VIAG AG. The partnership, confirming BT's reputation as Europe's most aggressive phone company, will require an upfront investment of at least DM 1.5 billion.

Credit Lyonnais said to need huge new cash injection: The French government may have to pay out another FR 25-31 billion this year in a second rescue plan for troubled state-owned bank Credit Lyonnais, a business daily reported yesterday.

GALT LIPKIS BECK

Massad said the Bank of Israel did not instruct it to conduct an internal report.

JOSE ROSENFELD

Leumi ann

non Salfan and Government Companies Authority director Yossi Nitzani to stop the mutual recriminations.

The seven groups competing in the tender have until the end of the month to submit their bids.

GALT LIPKIS BECK

customer lines by improving the accessibility of electronic communications.

The direct route is designed to

percent of total commission fees paid during the year.

While Leumi tried to keep its new form of banking a secret, several other banks have already

Already last year, Leumi started to reorganize its branches in

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.1.95)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	6.826	6.126	6.876
Ground sterling (£100,000)	4.876	4.376	6.250
Common mark (DM 200,000)	4.126	4.126	4.876
Swiss franc (SF 100,000)	3.000	3.250	3.625
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.750	1.025

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (101.95)					
	CHEQUE AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.3380	3.3360			3.3450
U.S. dollar	3.3601	3.0382	2.94	3.09	3.0150
German mark	1.4568	1.5996	1.81	2.00	1.9600
Pound sterling	4.6705	4.7363	4.88	4.81	4.2950
French franc	1.0575	0.5710	0.86	0.58	0.5820
Japanese yen (100)	3.3830	3.3830	3.38	3.38	3.3800
Dutch florin	1.7359	1.7893	1.71	1.77	1.7620
Swiss franc	2.3170	2.3505	2.28	2.39	2.3372
Swedish krona	0.4444	0.4444	0.44	0.44	0.4428
Norwegian krona	0.4442	0.4454	0.44	0.44	0.4428
Italian lira	0.0238	0.0307	0.040	0.042	0.0417
Spanish mark	0.0238	0.0361	0.02	0.031	0.0297
Australian dollar	2.1214	2.1815	2.09	2.05	0.6300
New Zealand dollar	1.9629	2.0129	1.98	1.99	1.9800
S. African rand	0.8467	0.8506	0.84	0.85	0.8308
Indian rupee (100)	0.9447	0.9580	0.93	0.98	0.9327
Chinese dollar	1.9629	2.0129	1.98	1.99	1.9800
Hong Kong dollar (100)	1.9629	2.0129	1.98	1.99	1.9800
Malaysian dollar	—	—	1.98	1.99	1.9800
Philippine peso	—	—	1.98	1.99	1.9800
Thai baht	—	—	1.98	1.99	1.9800
Indonesian rupiah	—	—	1.98	1.99	1.9800
ECU	3.6844	3.7363			3.7184
Fish pond	4.8206	4.8857	4.51	4.79	4.6370
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2326	2.2940	2.17	2.32	2.2920

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel



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Last-ditch bid made to save hockey season

NEW YORK (AP) — Prospects of playing the NHL season remained alive even as the owners' final deadline of noon yesterday (7 pm Israel time) passed without a labor agreement.

"In an effort to save the season, the discussions will continue past 12 noon," NHL vice president Arthur Pincus said, reading the league's first official statement since negotiations began Monday.

"Commissioner (Gary) Bettman has also planned a conference call with the NHL's Board of Governors to apprise them of the status of collective bargaining," Pincus said.

Pincus added that Bettman and NHL Players Association head Bob Goodenow would continue negotiating.

A general manager, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, said the conference call would not be to vote on a contract proposal.

"I can definitely say that a deal isn't done," he

said. The GM, a union official and an agent familiar with the talks all suggested that the free agency issue remained the major sticking point in negotiations. But Ottawa Senators owner Rod Bryden told CBC NewsWorld yesterday that, while final details were to be worked out, he felt the deal was done.

"I do not feel this is a big win for ownership," he said in a television interview from Ottawa. "I think it is an essential change for the sport of hockey."

Most of the issues — including salary arbitration, a rookie salary cap and the right to reopen the contract — apparently were resolved during the more than 20 hours of talks, leaving free agency as the trouble spot.

The Canadian Press reported Tuesday that an agreement could include a draft age of 19, a sliding free-agency scale from 32 to 30 years of age and a one-time lump sum of retroactive pay to each team.

Bullets loss 8th straight game

BOSTON (AP) — Dino Radja returned to Boston's lineup Monday night after missing 15 games with a broken hand and scored 10 points in the fourth quarter as the Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	28	8	.776	0
New York	18	12	.600	7
Boston	13	19	.406	19
New Jersey	13	22	.371	14.5
Miami	10	21	.323	15.5
Philadelphia	10	21	.323	15.5
Washington	7	24	.226	18.5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	21	10	.677	0
Indiana	19	11	.633	1.5
Charlotte	18	12	.600	2
Chicago	18	15	.545	5
Atlanta	14	19	.424	9
Milwaukee	10	22	.310	11.5
Detroit	9	20	.310	11

Celtics beat Washington 114-101, the Bullets' eighth consecutive loss.

Radja finished with 18 points and Dominique Wilkins had 34, including 24 in the first half. Scott Skiles had 24 points with 11 assists and nine rebounds for Washington, and George Muresan's 19 points were a basket short of his career high.

Suns 119, Bucks 102. Danny Manning hit three straight baskets early in the fourth quarter, helping the host Suns hold onto a comfortable lead throughout the period.

MONDAY'S RESULTS: Boston 114, Washington 101; Utah 106, Dallas 90; Phoenix 119, Milwaukee 102; Portland 129, L.A. Lakers 83.

od in handing Milwaukee its third straight loss.

The Suns never trailed to get their fourth straight victory and ninth in a row over the Bucks. It was Milwaukee's eighth straight loss at Phoenix.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	22	10	.688	0
Houston	20	10	.667	1
San Antonio	18	10	.643	2
Denver	18	15	.545	5.5
Dallas	14	15	.483	6.5
Minnesota	8	24	.250	15

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	25	7	.781	0
Seattle	21	9	.700	3
L.A. Lakers	20	10	.667	4
Sacramento	17	13	.563	7
Portland	14	14	.500	7.5
Golden State	10	19	.345	13.5
L.A. Clippers	5	26	.161	18.5

Eilat hosts Milano for do-or-die match

HAPOEL Eilat tonight plays one of the most crucial matches in its relatively short career in big-time basketball when it hosts Italy's Stefanel Milano in the last round of the Korac Cup Group D round robin.

With a win, the Israeli club, which has been in the National Basketball League for only three seasons, will advance to the quarter-finals. A loss, however, will see them drop from the competition.

Two teams from the four-club group advance to the quarter-finals. After five games, Caceres has earned its promotion, with a 4-1 mark (nine points) with Milano, Eilat and Greece's Peristeri all at 2-3 (seven points).

Even in the unlikely event that Peristeri will defeat Caceres to-

JOEL GORDIN

night, the Greeks will still trail the winner of the Milano-Eilat game on tiebreaker calculations.

Eilat's chances of winning tonight are fair. It lost 80-70 in the first encounter at Milano last month, but was not disgraced. The score was satisfactory, considering the difficulties of winning in Italy — a barrier which even Maccabi Tel Aviv finds hard to overcome.

Tonight, the southerners will have their fiercest partisan home crowd pushing them all the way. The Israelis' scoring potential — led by Brian Rowsom, three-point genius Ari Rosenberg and Michael Kennedy — is good even by European standards.

Team captain 37-year-old Wil-

lie Sims is tough and experienced. His forte, during the many years he played for Maccabi Tel Aviv, was standing up to pressure during vital seconds in make-or-break games. Eilat's weaknesses are its defense and its inexperienced bench. If one of the starting five has an off night, the squad will be in deep trouble.

The quarter-final round will be played between the top two teams of each of the four groups. It will be a knockout contest, with each team playing its opponent in a home-and-away framework on January 25 and February 1.

Each club with the best aggregate will then advance to the semifinals.

Tonight's game will be broadcast live on Sports Channel 5 from 8:30 pm.

Schmidt elected to Baseball Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Schmidt, perhaps the greatest third baseman in baseball history, was the overwhelming and only choice Monday for election to Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame.

Schmidt, whose 548 home runs rank seventh on the career list, was named on 444 of the 460 ballots by the Baseball Writers Association of America in his first year of eligibility. His 96.52 vote percentage was the fourth-high-

est ever.

Schmidt, a three-time National League Most Valuable Player and MVP of the 1980 World Series, became just the 10th third baseman to be selected for the Hall. He joins Brooks Robinson, Eddie Mathews and Pie Traynor as the only third basemen elected by the writers association; the others made it through other committees.

The former Philadelphia Phillies star, a 12-time All-Star who

earned 10 Gold Gloves for fielding and had 1,595 RBIs in his career from 1972-89, will be enshrined at the hall in Cooperstown, New York, in ceremonies July 30.

None of the other 38 eligible players came close to election. It took 75 percent (345 votes) to make it, and 300-game winners Phil Niekro (286 votes) and Don Sutton (264) fell far short as carryover candidates. Tony Perez (259 votes) also missed.

Cole signs for Man Utd in record-breaking deal

LONDON (Reuters) — Andy Cole became British soccer's most expensive player yesterday, joining Manchester United from Newcastle and declaring: "I wouldn't have gone anywhere else."

The 23-year-old striker signed for the champions in a £6 million deal with Northern Irish international winger Keith Gillespie, valued at £1 million, heading in the other direction.

Cole, who has signed a 5½-year contract which will keep him at United until the year 2000, became the 27th player bought by Alex Ferguson in his eight years in charge.

The United manager, who has now spent around £32 million since taking over at Old Trafford, said: "We were surprised when we did not get a rebuttal from Kevin Keegan when I spoke to him on Friday."

"We started negotiations because Kevin was interested in Keith Gillespie and very keen to have him. At that point we had to reconsider because he's a good young player, but sometimes you have to give something to get something."

United's chief executive Martin Edwards described himself as "absolutely delighted" to welcome Cole, who has scored 68 goals in his 22 months at St. James' Park.

Although Cole has not hit the target in his last nine games, he is widely recognized as a quality striker.

Cole said: "It's a brilliant move. I'm excited about the things that will hopefully come from it over the next five years. "It was a big shock — to you press boys as much as me — because I didn't think Newcastle would sell me to an English club."

Keegan said: "The deal was



£6-MILLION MAN — Andy Cole joined Manchester United yesterday, becoming British soccer's most expensive player. (AP)

too good to turn down."

He believes Gillespie could become the best of his generation.

"He's possibly the best youngster I've seen in the game in the three years since I came back."

Newcastle looks set to make a renewed bid for Crystal Palace's Chris Armstrong and Keegan may also renew his interest in

Queen's Park Rangers' England striker Les Ferdinand.

On Tyneside, Cole's dramatic move was greeted with disbelief. Protesting fans jammed the club switchboard and flooded local radio stations with calls. Keegan himself was confronted by angry supporters who gathered at the ground.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FIFA dismisses key officials

FIFA announced yesterday that it had relieved media chief Guido Tognoni and competitions director Miguel Galan from their duties with immediate effect.

World soccer's governing body, in a terse statement, said the decision was made "by President Joao Havelange in agreement with FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter concerning the reorganization of FIFA's general secretariat."

Tiberias Marathon today

Ethiopia's Ahmed Hussein is the favorite to win the 18th Tiberias Marathon to be run this morning along the shores of the Kinneret.

If the 22-year-old Ethiopian wins today, it will be his third victory in the event. He won the 14th Tiberias marathon in 1990 when he was only 18-years-old, clocking 2 hours, 18 minutes and 55 seconds.

Last year he finished ahead of the pack in the outstanding time of 2:14.52, the second-fastest marathon ever run in Israel. That is surpassed only by the course record of 2:14.02 set by South African Ken Shaw in 1978.

Some 300 people are expected to take part, including a large contingent from the UN forces.

Joel Gordin

Bonnie Blair AP Female Athlete of Year

Bonnie Blair, the world's greatest female speedskater and America's winningest Winter Olympian, was named The Associated Press 1994 Female Athlete of the Year yesterday.

Blair won her fifth overall gold medal at the Lillehammer Games in February after dominating the sport for nearly a decade.

England beats Australia; Gough hurt

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — England, which lost fast bowler Darren Gough with a stress fracture of his left foot before he bowled a ball, recovered to beat Australia by 37 runs in the World Series match yesterday.

Gough was carried off after pulling up as he tried to bowl the first ball of the Australia innings with Mark Taylor's side chasing 226 for victory.

But despite Gough's absence, and the loss of one of their best fielders, Neil Fairbrother, who damaged his right shoulder in the early stages of the home side's chase, England rallied to bowl Australia out for 188 in 48 overs with Angus Fraser taking four for 22.

Gough had earlier played an important part in helping England reach 225 for eight in its 50 overs after it had won the toss.

The Yorkshire all-rounder made 45 in 49 balls and helped Graeme Hick add 74 for the seventh wicket in 15 overs after Michael Atherton's side had slumped to 142 for six.

Hick made 91 in 120 balls, Fairbrother scored 35, whilst Australia seamer Glenn McGrath impressed with the ball, taking four for 25.

Hick, who was named man of the match, also did well with the ball, when Gough's absence meant he and Graham Gooch were pressed into prolonged service with the ball.

Hick took three for 41 in 10 overs, and despite a one-day best effort of 56 from Australia wicket-keeper Ian Healy, England secured a comfortable win, its first against Australia on the tour, in front of 73,282 fans.

England innings	
G.Gooch c Taylor b McGrath	2
M.Atherton c S.Waugh b M.Waugh	14
G.Hick c Fleming b Wame	91
G.Thorpe c Healy b M.Waugh	8
N.Fairbrother c Healy b Wame	35
J.Gaillard c Healy b McGrath	2
S.Fraser b McGrath	2
D.Gough b McGrath	45
P.DeFreitas not out	2
S.Lewis not out	2
Total (for 8 wickets, 50 overs)	225
England 1st innings	
England 2nd innings	
England 3rd innings	
England 4th innings	
England 5th innings	
England 6th innings	
England 7th innings	
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England 98th innings	
England 99th innings	
England 100th innings	

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL — Latvia Riga beat Hapoel Tel Aviv 85-70 last night in the European Cup final pool.

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High Court backs Ben-Yair's decision not to investigate Sheves

THE High Court of Justice yesterday rejected two petitions asking the attorney-general to open a criminal investigation against Prime Minister's Office Director-General Shimon Sheves, saying Michael Ben-Yair's decision not to do so was reasonable.

The petitions, by the Likud's Gil Samsonov and Amitai - Citizens for Good Government, were based on State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's report on the dispute between Police Minister Moshe Shahal and former police inspector-general Ya'acov Turner.

While testifying about this affair, Sheves mentioned that he had brought Turner a message from then interior minister Aryeh Deri: Deri would be willing to break his silence and answer the police's questions about the corruption investigation against him if the police team investigating him was changed.

Ben-Porat, in her report, termed this inappropriate behavior for a public servant, but did not raise the suspicion of criminal action on Sheves's part.

The petitioners, however, asked Ben-Yair to order a police investigation into whether this violated the laws against interfering with a criminal investiga-

EVELYN GORDON

tion. However, Ben-Yair said that while he would bring a disciplinary complaint against Sheves, there was no indication that Sheves had the criminal intent necessary to justify a criminal investigation.

Justices Aharon Barak, Gavriel Bach and Ya'acov Kedmi accepted this reasoning.

"What's wrong with the fact that Mr. Sheves told Mr. Turner that Deri wants to change the investigating team?" asked Barak.

Sheves, added Bach, was trying to relay information that the police might find useful: that Deri would be willing to break his silence under certain conditions. If he had refused, couldn't he even have been accused of keeping information from the police? Certainly no one would ever demand a criminal investigation of an ordinary man for doing such a thing, he said.

The justices were unconvinced by the petitioners' arguments that Sheves's "message" was really a form of pressure on Turner, who knew, according to the interviews Ben-Porat conducted for her report, that

"[Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin... was applying pressure" to get Deri to talk.

They were also uninterested in Ben-Porat's charges that Sheves appeared to be contradicting his testimony to her in his testimony to the court. Even according to Sheves' original testimony to Ben-Porat, what he said was not sufficient basis for a criminal investigation, they said.

"You would do well to consider withdrawing the petitions," Barak said early on in the hearing. However, the petitioners refused this suggestion, so the court - after listening to several additional hours of pleading - rejected the petitions instead.

"Opening an investigation is a traumatic thing [for the person involved]," said Barak. "You don't do it lightly."

Both government attorney Uzi Fogelman and Sheves's attorney, Yigal Arnon, asked the court to impose court costs on Amitai, which, they said, had made slanderous accusations in its petition.

The justices said there was "good basis" for the respondents' demands, but due to various circumstances decided not to impose court costs this time.

Petah Tikva man acquitted of selling stolen weapons to Arabs from territories

PETAH Tikva resident Ari Yitzhak Fisher was acquitted of selling stolen IDF-issue weapons to Arabs from the territories by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday because of lack of evidence.

The prosecution had charged that between 1990 and 1993, Fisher had been in contact with Sati Othman of Bidia and Zohir Belia of Yatta - a known Hamas stronghold - and had conspired with them to sell them stolen weapons.

RAINE MARCUS

Fisher was charged with selling Belia four M16s and one Galil assault rifle and a pistol to Othman, who later turned State's witness.

The trial was due to be held today, but the prosecution informed the court that Othman's testimony was untrustworthy, and without this, there was insufficient evidence to convict.

Judge Natan Amit said he was

not surprised to hear the prosecution's claims, since he also was not convinced of Othman's credibility. Fisher did not have the ability or opportunity to commit such grave offenses, said Amit.

He also slammed police for failing to gather sufficient, independent evidence and for relying so heavily on Othman. There was no evidence that Fisher had access to IDF bases to steal the weapons, said Amit.



Energy Minister Gonen Segev and his predecessor, Police Minister Moshe Shahal, raise a toast at a 'changing of the guard' ceremony in at the ministry offices in Jerusalem yesterday. Segev had announced earlier that the ministry's director-general, Amos Ron, will remain in his post.

Court orders rabbinate to defend refusal to hold weddings in halls without kashrut certificates

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the rabbinate 45 days to explain its refusal to conduct a wedding in a hall lacking a recognized kashrut certificate.

The petition stemmed from a couple's request to hold a wedding in a Rehovot hall supervised by the Ya'ad Shomrei Masoret. This body issues kashrut certificates to establishments the rabbinate refuses to certify for reasons not directly related to kashrut, such as being open on Shabbat.

The organization was started by a former executive of one of the leading haredi kashrut organizations, after he abandoned Orthodoxy. However, it claims to certify only those places that meet the requirements of Jewish law.

When the rabbinate refused to conduct the wedding there, the couple offered to move the wedding to Kapulski's restaurant chain which claims to serve kosher food but is open on Shabbat - but the rabbinate rejected this as well. The organization, the wedding hall and Kapulski's therefore petitioned the court.

Initially, Justices Aharon Barak, Gavriel Bach and Ya'acov Kedmi seemed sympathetic to the rabbinate's position, which was that under Jewish law, a wedding ceremony cannot be held in a place where public prayers could not be held.

"Why isn't this part of the hard core [of the rabbinate's authority]?" asked Barak, noting that the rabbinate's authority over marriage is legally unassailable. When his own son was married, Barak added, he solved the same problem by having the ceremony in a vacant lot across from the restaurant.

"For [the rabbi], this isn't a formalistic issue," added Bach. "It's an issue of his whole world-view... Isn't your demand a little far-reaching?" he asked the petitioners.

Bach said he was particularly concerned that the petition would require the rabbinate to conduct weddings anywhere - not just a place which allegedly kept kashrut but not

Shabbat, but even a place which served pork.

However, the justices' opinion began to change when Rabbi Uri Regav, representing the petitioners, cited a ruling by the late Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, one of the generation's leading halachic authorities. Feinstein ruled that a wedding could take place in a Conservative synagogue, even though it was definitely forbidden to pray there. According to Regav, Feinstein even said a wedding could be held in a place of idol worship.

The justices then indicated that if the question is not one of Jewish law, but simply one of whether the rabbinate is being reasonable, then that changes the complexion of the case.

Furthermore, they asked, if kashrut is really a problem, how does the rabbinate justify performing weddings on non-kosher kibbutzim? Government attorney Uzi Fogelman's response that kibbutz weddings are not usually in the dining halls did not appear to satisfy them.

The court therefore issued the 45-day show-cause order.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ichilov testing drug to fight Alzheimer's
Ichilov Hospital has started testing an experimental Israeli drug for Alzheimer's disease found abroad to have "a very positive influence" on such dementia patients.

Doctors at the Tel Aviv hospital yesterday reported to government pharmacists about the drug, AF-102B, developed at the Nes Zion Biological Institute. They said the drug's special structure allows it to reach brain cells damaged by the disease and to act on them with "minimal side effects."

The drug is not regarded as a cure, but as a means to ease the patient's condition and ease the burden on the family. This, said the doctors, reduces the main expressions of the disease - decline of memory and awareness of reality.

Gang of pupils arrested for extortion

A group of Haifa high school students are suspected of belonging to a gang which extorts allowance money and candy from younger pupils.

Police yesterday arrested two 17-year-olds suspected of running the gang which has been operating in the middle school grades.

The gang was uncovered after a 14-year-old girl said she had been beaten by older pupils after refusing to give them the slice of pizza she had bought near the school.

Senior IDF officers announce retirement

Maj.-Gen. Meir Dagan, the assistant head of the IDF Operations Branch is to retire from active service in April, a senior source confirmed yesterday.

The Chief Armor Corps officer, Brig.-Gen. Eyal Palant, has also announced his retirement, pending the appointment of a successor.

According to army sources, Palant was disgruntled because he was not promoted to major-general, even though he said he had been promised a promotion by former chief of general staff Ehud Barak.

Zadok: High Court forced to intervene too often in political matters

LIAT COLLINS

THE increased number of cases in which the High Court rules on Knesset issues stems from the lack of a moral political culture in Israel, former Justice Minister Haim Zadok told the Knesset's Justice and Law Committee yesterday.

The meeting, chaired by MK Yitzhak Levy (NRP), was the third on court-Knesset relations.

"On a trip to England last year, I met with a group of counterparts including the Lord Chief Justice who were shocked at the type of involvement seen by the Israeli courts in parliamentary matters," recalled Zadok. "But I explained to them that in England there would never be a case like the [Aryeh] Deri one, in which the prime minister tried to include in his cabinet a man awaiting trial on criminal charges. In England, as they say,

"It's just not done."

Over the last few years the courts "have gone from determining what's legal or not to determining what's acceptable or not," Zadok he said.

Sometimes the courts have overstepped the boundaries of acceptable involvement, but this stemmed from the same situation in which the Knesset failed to create and enforce its own moral norms of behavior, he added.

Zadok urged the Knesset to use self-restraint instead of reaching a situation in which the courts needed to be involved.

Lawyer and former MK Yedya Be'eri said, however, there are situations in which the Knesset could not be expected to rule on internal matters without considering political interests. This is

particularly true when talking about issues such as forming a coalition, he said.

Tel Aviv University Professor Claude Klein said there are very few democratic countries in which there is no judicial recourse over legislative affairs, particularly since the American influence spread to Europe after World War II.

He said the different systems in Europe gave Israel an opportunity to try to examine different tested models and consider applying them. He described the system in which special courts exist specifically to oversee parliamentary process and the Supreme Court is not involved.

Klein said he is a firm believer in the need for a Constitution and that countries like Britain which managed without one were the exception that proves the rule.

Police delegation in Haiti to return home

BILL HUTMAN

THE police delegation in Haiti is to return next week, after it was decided not to extend its stay in the Caribbean state, the police spokesman announced yesterday.

Yesterday, the 30-member delegation left Haiti for a week's vacation in the US, after spending over three months helping in the international peacekeeping

effort in Haiti.

A police source explained that in discussions between the US administration and the Foreign and Police ministries, it was decided Israeli presence was no longer required in Haiti.

In a statement, the police

spokesman said "The delegation received high praise from the Americans both for its professionalism and its work, which served as an example for the other forces there."

Police plan a festive ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport to mark the delegation's return next Wednesday.

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